

Popplemag

May 2020

The Special Online edition of the Parish Magazine
for Newton Popleford, Harpford and Colaton Raleigh



Editor's Note:

During the time of Coronavirus Emergency our volunteer distributors are not able to get out and deliver the usual printed version of the Parish Magazine – it will be back as soon as possible, but meanwhile this monthly online edition hopes to inform and entertain you during the period of lockdown.

With all the local clubs closed, there is obviously no news of activities, nor any diary of coming events. But in this wonderful spring weather there's plenty to enjoy in our gardens and countryside – so plenty of nature news – and time to think about those less fortunate, and with appeals from struggling charities. Plus articles to interest you and hopefully some to tickle your sense of fun.

The above picture – created from flowers in the garden – is a reminder of support for all our carers and a reminder of God's promise that "All will be well". *Haylor*

Churches and Community

Church

The three village churches are closed for worship and all other purposes – funerals, weddings and private prayer Services have moved online, or are being broadcast by the BBC on both radio and TV.

The key contact is the Vicar, Revd. Mark Ward, who can be contacted tel: 01395 568390

email: revmarkward@btinternet.com
www.facebook.com/revmarkward

He is sending out a weekly contact list of local and diocesan service links, including an opportunity to join the local church on Zoom on a Sunday morning. If you would like to share in this information, please send him your email address.

St Luke's Church also has members contactable by telephone for pastoral support or prayer:

June Smith 01395 562994

Audrey Callis 01395 568742

Church of England launches free dial-in worship phone line

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched [Daily Hope](#), which includes music, prayers, reflections and full worship services at the end of a telephone line. It is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** and has been set up to reach people unable to join online church services. If you are talking to anyone you know who does not use the internet, could you give them this telephone number and suggest they give it a try. If you are worried about recommending something untried, ring it yourself and have a listen.

Community

The Village Halls at Harpford, Newton Poppleford and Colaton Raleigh and the NP Playing Fields Pavilion are closed until further notice, which means that all the local clubs and societies have suspended activities.

Doctor's surgeries and functioning, but GPs are reducing numbers of patients at the surgery because they are dealing with a lot on the phone; so do contact the GP if you need to and they will do their best to assist in the safest way possible.

Harpford have set up the **Harpford Support Group** offering help, particularly to the housebound.
harpfordsg@gmail.com

Newton Poppleford and Harpford Coronavirus Support Network

The Parish Council, in conjunction with a growing list of community volunteers, and local businesses, is asking residents to look out for a leaflet being delivered in the first few days of May which will outline the community support and assistance available to anyone in need in the parish, be that for shopping trips, collection of prescriptions, advice or just a friendly chat on the phone if you are feeling a little frayed and anxious.

Woods Village Shop at Colaton Raleigh are offering customers in Colaton Raleigh free delivery to those who can't get to the shop. Call on **01395 568406** and they can take credit card payments over the phone.

From the Vicar

A recurring theme in the Bible is people—often good and godly people—having to pass through a difficult experience—sometimes a very dangerous and traumatic experience. And time and time again, people entered into a crisis not knowing how long it would be or what the final outcome would be. Here are a few famous examples:

Noah and his family passed through the flood. The world around them collapsed into chaos, and in order to save themselves the family had to go into the ark. They were shut in for twelve months.

Later, when God rescued the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt, they had to pass through the desert before they could enter the promised land. They ended up spending forty long years in the wilderness before they eventually crossed the River Jordan into the land flowing with milk and honey.

Several centuries later the Israelites found themselves once again a long way from the promised land. They were forcibly moved to Babylon. They had to go through the mental and physical trauma of exile. It lasted seventy years!

During the exile Daniel had to pass a night in the lions' den. This was a short time but must have been terrifying, even for a man with the great faith of Daniel. He entered that unwelcome interruption to his life without any guarantee that he would come out unscathed.

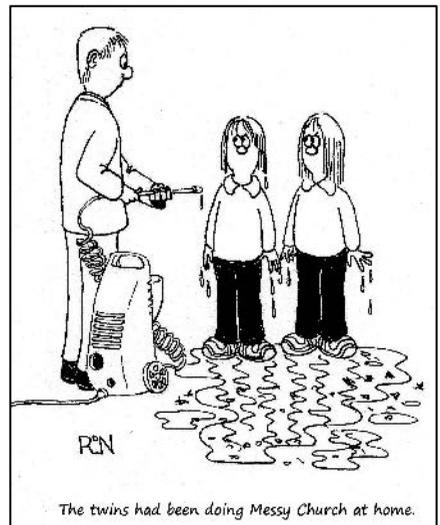
There are other examples in the Old Testament scriptures of people passing through difficult and

challenging times. But all of these characters from Old Testament history were like signposts pointing towards the Messiah—the Christ. And of course the ultimate biblical example of someone passing through something unpleasant is the Christ passing through what must be the ultimate danger—death!

The night before Jesus' death on the cross he prayed and asked God the Father to save him from his ordeal. Like many before him, Jesus asked not to pass through the trial that lay ahead. He would have liked God to click his fingers and make it all go away. Like Noah, Moses and Daniel, Jesus was saved; but he was saved by having to trust God whilst still having to pass through the trauma.

Occasionally God does make problems disappear, but the far more common experience of people who pray is for God to save us by allowing us to pass through the thing that we would rather not face.

Mark





VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8-10 MAY 2020

As you will know from the announcement made by HM Government on 16th April 2020, the Coronavirus lockdown has been extended by at least a further three weeks. This means that community events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8th May can no longer go ahead as originally planned. This will be a great disappointment to all of you who have put so much hard work into planning your participation.

However, we still feel some aspects of this important anniversary could still take place on 8th May in ways that will allow us to celebrate the VE Day anniversary while following the essential social distancing advice that ensures that everyone remains safe.

FRIDAY 8th MAY - VE DAY 75

2.55pm: Playing of the Last Post

Buglers, trumpeters and cornet players might like to consider playing the Last Post from the safety of their front or back garden, outside their front door or from their balcony or window. We would ask you not to play in an area that could attract a group of people however.

3.00pm: The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW II

We would very much like to encourage you all to still take part in the Nation's Toast from the safety of your homes to pay tribute to the many millions in the United Kingdom and overseas who sacrificed so much to secure the freedom we have today. We would invite you stand at 3.00pm and raise a glass or cup of refreshment of your choice and undertake the following toast:

"For those that gave so much, we thank you."

Dame Joan Collins has kindly agreed to lead the 'Toast' on behalf of the women of the nation. Dame Joan was a young girl living in London during WW II.

This will be the first time such a tribute has ever taken place so please encourage others to join in from their own homes.

7.00pm: Ringing out for Peace

Government restrictions mean that churches and cathedrals are closed until further notice, so I am afraid this aspect of VE Day 75 cannot now take place.

More at: www.veday75

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See also: plenty on radio, TV, & web

# Thy Kingdom Come

MAY 21<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

I have been keeping an eye on the 'Thy Kingdom Come' web site fully expecting that it would be cancelled. However, it is going ahead, and I'm sure that nobody can argue with the fact that the world, in the present situation, certainly needs urgent prayer for God's Kingdom to come.

Most of the plans we had in mind at St Luke's for the 10 days will not now be possible because we can't gather together, but Mark Ward has agreed that a Special Prayer Diary should be prepared nearer the time. Mark will circulate this as he has a wider list of email addresses than I have. If you would like a copy, but Mark doesn't have your email address, please let him have it, if you are happy to do so. There is lots of information, and resources, on the 'Thy Kingdom Come' web site which you might find both interesting and useful.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Audrey Callis (Prayer Co-ordinator)



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Why did the scarecrow get a promotion?

Because he was outstanding in his field.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced,
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home,
remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close,
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips,
remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the turmoil of the economic market,
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home,
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.

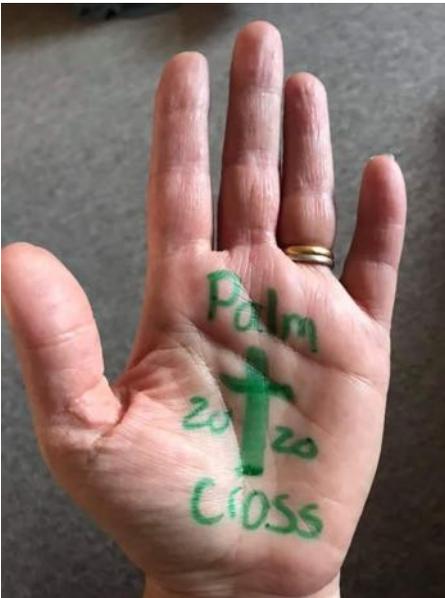
Amen.

Easter at St Luke's

A very different season, what with stay-at-home and churches closed.



Bernard & Ruth Edmonds on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and his 85th birthday.



Lockdown Palm Sunday



Good Friday at St Luke's



And the flowers burst out for Easter Day, much to the delight of many who passed by on their daily walk or en-route to the village store.

... And Far Away



Melanesian Mission

Many thanks for the calls and emails to ask how our Brothers and Sisters are coping with COVID-19 and also Cyclone Harold. It has also been humbling to receive emails from Melanesia asking how we are all fairing in the UK.

At present (April) there are no confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Solomon Islands or Vanuatu. As testing has been limited, this does not mean that the virus has not arrived in these countries. New Caledonia has reported 18 cases.

The latest cyclone swept across the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu earlier this month causing damage to roads, bridges, buildings and gardens. There have been overcrowded passenger ferries and a boat sunk with dozens of lives lost. We have heard of damage on Santo, Ambae, Malo, Port Villa, and at Tabalia, Selwyn College and Verana'aso.

Greetings from Melanesia

"Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The MBH send our Easter Greetings to all our supporters, MMUK, MBH Companions, parishes, dioceses and friends of the Brotherhood in the UK. Thank you for being supportive not only in finance but very importantly in prayers for the work here in Melanesia and abroad. We wish you a Blessed Easter.

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"Our prayer points this week are to pray for God's protection to be upon us all during this pandemic of Corona Virus/COVID-19. We also ask for prayers for those who have been badly affected by Cyclone Harold. Pray for all Christians in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu who have lost properties, gardens and loved ones during this bad weather. Prayers for comfort and strength in this time of mourning for the families of the 26 lost passengers on board MV Taimareho to Malaita. Pray for Christians who are finding ways to survive with little food after Cyclone Harold.

"We ask you to pray particularly for the Brotherhood as Cyclone Harold badly affected the Central Headquarters where gardens have again been washed away and houses were destroyed by fallen trees and the wind. The Beau Regional Headquarters, Malo Island, Vanuatu were also badly affected by this Category 5 Cyclone.

"Please remember the Leaders of the MBH and ACoM as they face this critical time of Pandemic and natural disasters. Pray that they may lead with God's wisdom and knowledge on how they will manage and administer the recovery process in the next 6 months. Praying for all in the UK."



Christian Aid Week



For many years, we at St Luke's have supported Christian Aid Week and promoted the bright red envelopes for donations to their vital cause.

Under the current circumstances, sadly, house-to-house and delivery-only collections should not go ahead. Also events such as Big Brekkies, where food is shared, cannot go ahead.

Christian Aid has plenty of alternative ways you can take part in Christian Aid Week, virtually meet, share and pray with people over the coming months. Christian Aid Week is our single-most important fundraiser, so we'd welcome donations in the Virtual Envelope to show love for our neighbours at home and abroad, as a community.



You can safely and securely make a one-off donation using our online form at

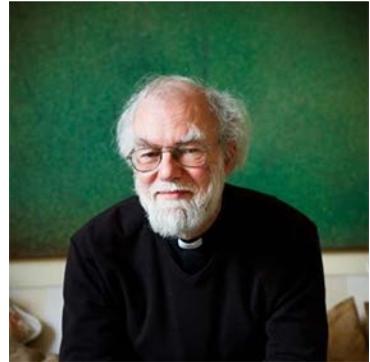
<https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/>

or call **020 7523 2269** to donate by telephone.

For details on how to pay money directly into our bank account please call **020 7523 2226**

A very special Christian Aid Week celebration

Please join us for our live Christian Aid Week Sunday service on the 10th May at 1.00pm introduced by Amanda Mukwashi, Christian Aid's Chief Executive, we will have special guest speakers, prayers from our partners and a Sermon from Dr Rowan Williams.



Throughout Christian Aid Week (Monday 11th to Saturday 16th May) we will also be streaming short reflections each day so please join with us as we stand together in love and solidarity with our brother and sisters around the world.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/daily-prayer-reflection>

Quizzes

Lastly, quizzes have turned out to be the nation's favourite hobby during the coronavirus lockdown and at Christian Aid we love to test our general knowledge. If you need some light relief and want to keep your mind sharp whilst raising funds, please get signed up for our special celebrity quiz on Saturday 2nd May we'll keep you posted about any other quiz plans too.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/daily-quiz>



Climate Crisis

Looking beyond the immediate virus emergency, this year is crucial in the struggle for climate justice. To rise to the challenge, we must underpin it in prayer. Prayer that will transform us and the actions that we take. Prayer that will help us to understand God's care for those who are most affected by the climate crisis, acknowledge our role in causing it and start anew. Prayer that will act as a deep source of energy for the struggle ahead.

Alongside our friends at CAFOD and Tearfund, and people all over the world, we will fill every day with prayer for a world where everyone can flourish and creation can breathe easy again. We're asking everyone around the world to join us through prayer to stop this climate crisis.

Join the prayer chain for climate justice at:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain/signup>



Letters for Creation



This Christian Aid Week we have joined with the Church of England to share children's reflections with the leaders of our world, and whilst children and young people are off school this would be a great activity to get them thinking creatively and taking action. Share our online resources

[Download Letters for Creation resources](#) ►



Local charity, Hospiscare, is reliant on raising 85% of its £8m (per year) funding needs from **you**. These are incredibly difficult times with cancellations of events and other activities that will hugely impact Hospiscare's income.

If you are in a position to make a donation, set-up a regular monthly direct debit, or consider leaving a gift in your Will, the charity would be extremely grateful. Just visit www.hospiscare.co.uk/donate or call 01392 688020 to make a difference to people living with a terminal illness. On behalf of Hospiscare's nurses, clinical team and the patients they care for, **thank you**.

Walks

Want to go for a walk, stuck indoors and needing some exercise? Here are some suggestions for easy local walks in and around the villages using our footpath network and (now not-so-) quiet lanes and tracks.

Please keep to the paths, keep your dog under close control and pick up after it.

Hopefully the descriptions given should be all you need, but if you have an Ordnance Survey Explorer map number 115 it could be helpful.

Walks designation - **L** indicates left and **R** indicates right.

Southerton walk. 2.5 miles with 308 feet of cumulative ascent.

Starting at the Pavilion, cross Back Lane and head up the footpath opposite. Ignore paths to the **R** and **L** and just after crossing a stream the path turns sharp **L**. In 100 yards, turn **R** (at footpath sign) uphill to go through a gate in the **L** corner. Go through another gate on the **R** and on to Venn Ottery Road.

L here for about 10 yards to find a track on the **R**, uphill at first then levelling out. This path is not a right of way and care must be taken as there is considerable badger activity. At the end turn **L** down a wide track to the road at Southerton.

Here on roads go **R** then shortly **L** and **L** again. Very soon at a footpath sign on the **R**, head on the obvious line through Southerton Park. It's here that people gathered in early evenings last winter to watch the aerial display of starling murmurations, a truly amazing spectacle. Carry on to a road where turn **L** (East Devon Way). Go along

the road to Brooklands Cross where you cross the Venn Ottery road onto a footpath through a metal gate.

Head uphill and keep ahead to descend through an orchard to footpath junction. Here turn **R** and continue along to Back Lane. Turn **L** here to return to the Pavilion.

Newton Poppleford around the village walk. 1.8 miles with 144 feet of cumulative ascent.

This walk can be started from any convenient place around the village, though this description starts from the car park in Back Lane by the tennis courts.

Cross the road into Webbers Meadow and veer diagonally **R** to cross the footbridge into the second field. Follow the path around the river bank and through the metal gate to the A3052 where turn **R**. Cross the road with care at the refuge and proceed along Otter Reach.

Just before the road turns **R** go through a kissing gate on the **R** along an un-adopted road. As the road bears **R**, go **L** onto a marked footpath for 200 yards. Ascend **R** up concrete steps with central handrail to turn first **L** and then **R** to a road. Keep uphill on the road to School Lane where cross over and straight onto a footpath up concrete steps. Follow footpath which gives good views over the village, over King Alfreds Way to the Toll House on the A3052.

Cross the road with care down Venn Ottery Road to cross the bridge over Back Brook. Soon after turn **R** onto a footpath and keep straight on to reach Meadow Drive. Continue over the road on path along the brook passing the playing fields to the starting point.

Harpford Woods walk. 3.2 miles with 496 feet of cumulative ascent.

Starting from the tennis courts car park in Back Lane, **L** to go straight along riverside footpath where road bears sharp **L**. At Red Bridge turn **R** over river, (taking care on eroded path) to road where **L** through Harpford.

Turn **L** by church (look at the new wall on the **R** and see if you can spot the ammonites in the stones) and in a few yards **R** to ascend Knapps Lane. At top of hill straight onto footpath (East Devon Way) keeping on this path to descend to a shallow ford. Just past ford ignore path on **R** and sharp **L** under old railway bridge. This is the disused Sidmouth branch line, closed down in the 1960's by Richard Beeching. Ascend path until just before Ottery St Mary road where **L** onto broad track to rear of disused recycling centre. By wooden steps on **R**, turn **L** on track passing Woods Farm on the **R**. Woods Farm is owned by the Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary though is not open to the public.

Walk along path for quarter of a mile and look for waymark post on **R** to leave woods and enter a field. Follow obvious path across field and admire the views towards Tipton and Ottery St Mary, then through gate to turn **L** downhill to ultimately cross old railway bridge. Path becomes a road which you will recognise as the outward route. Retrace outward journey back to the car park.

Colaton Raleigh walk. 3 miles with 279 feet of cumulative ascent.

Starting from Colaton Raleigh church, head down the road towards the

river. After 200 yards turn **L** and follow footpath for half a mile to a path junction where **L** to road at Yonder Hill garden. The garden is quite extensive and is open to the public at weekends in season under the National Gardens scheme.

Here **R** on lane and bear **L** to B3178 road. Turn **R** on road verge and carefully cross after a few yards onto a broad stony track (Naps Lane). Follow ascending track to the top of hill and after 160 yards **L** on another track (Pound Lane) and descend to Hawkerland Road where turn **R**. In a few yards **L** on lane and cross a stream to a T junction **L** again on lane to reach B3178 road. Cross with care onto footpath, pass pub (Otter Inn) on **L** to reach a road. Turn **R** to return to the start point.

All of these walks may be used for walkers and runners only, no cycles or horse riders please. Your dogs will be welcome as long as they are kept under close control, especially if livestock is present.

Because of the self-isolating rules currently in operation, many more people than usual are taking to the footpaths in and around the village. It has been apparent however that some people are not keeping to our paths and wandering over farmland at will. Just because a grassy field looks inviting, do remember that grass is a crop for animal feed for either hay or silage, trampling these areas or letting your dog foul in them is not acceptable. Do please act responsibly in the countryside and enjoy it by keeping to footpaths or obvious open areas like the Commons where free access is available.

Ted Swan, Parish Footpath Warden

Ward Councillor's Report

Support during lockdown

I hope everyone is staying safe and well during the current situation. If you have concerns about your own situation or any friends or neighbours who are not accessing the help they need, please contact me so I can help or refer them on to someone who can. Tel 07475 201 340.

A number of people have contacted me to offer their support and would be happy to help if asked. The help might be shopping, medicines and prescriptions, advice on accessing financial support, (perhaps for people who have never had to claim or rely on benefits before, lack of IT skills where applications must be made online), loneliness, low mood, domestic abuse. Practical help with dog walking has also been offered.

Our thanks go to all those essential workers in the NHS, shops and health services, EDDC council officers and employees, who are continuing to work, often from home and in different ways learning to use newer technologies. I am finding 'remote' teaching useful, interesting and challenging in equal measure.

The turnout for the Thursday night 'thank essential workers' clapping and cheering can be heard in Harpford from Newton Poppleford. The turnout in Harpford is also excellent.

Help for local growers and small farmers

I have today written to East Devon MP Simon Jupp about the gap in support for small rural farms and

growers. EDDC have confirmed there is no help available for certain of these small businesses and partnerships. I await Mr Jupp's response.

Red Bridge - Harpford

The number of people enjoying walks in the local area has really increased. Regular walkers will know how vulnerable the red bridge is now, with the river bank on the north side eroding under the end support and threatening the safety and longevity of this path remaining open. Residents will be aware of my efforts over the years to keep this footpath open and the lack of interest on the part of DCC to do so. This may be the time to start rallying support for keeping the crossing safe and open in its current location and securing its future. DCC do not believe how well used and valued this footpath and river crossing is and have shown complete complacency over the years. Perhaps an online petition is the way forward given the social distancing issues and that paper and pen signatures may not be appropriate at the current time.

Wales and West Utilities vehicles sited at Homefield Farm, Venn Ottery Road

Chris Drake of Homefield Farm contacted me today to let me know that the multitude of vehicles newly occupying some of his land belong to West and West who were given permission to keep them there while they are 'sleeving' the gas pipes running through the area. He has been told they could be in situ for up to 5 months and he was concerned to point this out to concerned residents who may think he has *(continued)*

multiplied his vehicle fleet (He hasn't) and that they will be there permanently (they won't) His site was identified as the best place to keep the vehicles temporarily whilst working in Newton Poppleford but keeping away from residential areas.

East Devon Parks now open

The government has said that public parks must remain open. Just a few are still to remain shut such as Blackmore Gardens and Connaught Gardens where social distancing at entrances is more difficult.

Reporting potholes

I wrote about this in April's Parish Magazine but am repeating it here. Remarkably reported potholes are being filled if residents report them and it is easy to see why this is a good time for that given the fewer vehicles on the road.

Reporting a problem to Devon County Council

I am always happy to report these issues to Devon County Council but it always helps if there is more than one person complaining about these things and you also get follow up emails so you know how the council plans to deal with the issue. To find the website you can simply search for Devon County Council Report a Problem

You will be asked for a location and you have to click on a map to show where the problem is. I always use the postcode EX10 0DW which brings you to the Cannon Pub on the High Street and that usually puts you in the vicinity of the problem you wish to report.

You are also asked if you would like to upload a photo and this is always very helpful in my opinion.

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It is quite an easy site to use.

However, if you don't have the IT skills to be able to do this, I will always do it on your behalf.

The debacle of the erratic and intermittent painting of double yellow lines continues..

Here is the link to the website

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Four Elms Hill

The date for work on this is now showing as 15-19th June 2020, put back from April owing to CV-19. I am sure this date may change again depending on the situation.

Scams

Please do be aware of the many scams that are on the rise which can take the form of bogus charities, testing kits and cures, donation scams claiming to be raising money to fight the virus, refund emails claiming to be offering refunds for holidays which may have had to be cancelled, financial offers which may appeal to those struggling financially. They can come via phone, emails and the post so do be aware and talk about these with family and friends.

Lord Clinton's representative - offer of support

I was contacted by the above offering help from Lord Clinton during CV-19. I asked what was being offered, I was unclear about the specifics of the response so I said I would give it some thought.

I spoke to a few residents who pointed out that re-instating the doctors' surgery would be a start though I didn't hold out much hope.

I emailed that suggestion to the representative. *(continued)*

This went down like a lead balloon who said she was surprised at my response during CV-19 and that most other people she had spoken to were extremely grateful to Lord Clinton for his very generous offer and that she was not going to bother to contact me in future. I thought about the withdrawal of the medical centre, and the retraction of the offer by CDE's builder Cavanna Homes to provide something for the village by way of compensation for the disruption caused by the construction of the 40 new houses and struggled to find evidence of his generosity here in Newton Poppleford to date. Other residents have asked why CDE does not open the railway line from Otter Reach so that people could walk safely between the villages during CV-19. I will pass on the message but don't hold your breath. If you want any other suggestions passed to Lord Clinton do contact me.

Government changes rules for council meetings

The Government have made the Regulations to permit virtual / remote meetings.

EDDC Remote Council Meetings

Concern has been expressed by some councillors that EDDC seem in no hurry to re-instate council meetings even using remote means. This means that decision making is left to officers and a few members of Cabinet which is not a democratic way to run the council. In the meantime other councils such as Exeter City Council and councils in surrounding counties are running meetings.

Here are the latest CV-19 links from EDDC:

Residents' weekly Coronavirus update:

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/latest-updates/east-devon-residents-coronavirus-update-24-april-2020/>

Business weekly Coronavirus update:

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/latest-updates/east-devon-business-coronavirus-update-24-april-2020/>

DV Toolkit resources

Dave Whelan - Anti-Social Behaviour and Community Safety Coordinator, sent this:

Nine really useful DV Toolkit resources for all different circumstances that individuals may find themselves in. They are a really good source of advice and contact material.

Domestic abuse recourses from Splitz can be accessed at the following link

<https://www.splitz.org/resources/talk-toolkits.html>

Val Ranger

Ward Councillor; tel 07475 201 340
email vranger@btinternet.com

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The latest national advice on coronavirus (COVID-19) is available on the [Government website](#) and [NHS website](#)

You can find local guidance and information about the impacts on DCC services on the [Devon County Council website](#). Including regular bulletins about a variety of services.

update from EDDC 30/04/2020.

Green Waste Service: EDDC are proposing to resume our Green Waste service from the 11th May. Communications will be going out to our customers next week about this. This does remain an area of risk, and is very dependent on driver availability – if we get further sickness we may need to pause it again. Customers are getting an additional 3 month period on their subscription to compensate for the down time and inconvenience.

Planning & Building Control: The Planning team remains busy despite lockdown. Development management received over 50 applications during the last two weeks (down 30% on usual numbers) and now have just over 400 applications being processed.

The 19/20 financial year monitoring for key areas of performance in planning shows:
We have successfully defended 75% of appeals against the Council's decisions on planning applications.
Housing monitoring data shows that 1065 new homes were completed in the year. This is the highest number ever delivered in a single year in East Devon since records began.

Building Control: little change in the number of full plans applications, with the last week actually exceeding the number received for the same week last year. The number of inspections has significantly reduced albeit many housebuilders are starting to return to site. It is understood that Persimmon are back on site and Taylor Wimpey are resuming next week both having put in place social distancing rules.

Death Registrations for East Devon to 17/04/20: On a somewhat sombre note the Office for National Statistics published updated registration data on Tuesday: An analysis of the provisional information suggests that in the week up to the 17th April a total 659 deaths had been registered for the district so far this year. Of this number, 11 were attributed to Covid19 with 5 deaths being registered in care homes and 6 registered in hospital. In that it is generally understood that **Devon has not yet seen its peak infection rate there are concerns about the general public assuming a relaxation of the lockdown restrictions.**



Police note of 1st May: DCC latest figures show a startling 10,000 more daily trips on Devon A-roads compared to just one week ago. With that, an appeal again to **stay home**, and a reminder that the reason why the south west has one of the lowest number of reported cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) is because we've heeded the government guidance to stay put unless our journey is essential and stay compliant with social distancing. Please, let's keep it up. And emphasise to tourists that they should stay away from the peninsula in order that the comparatively low infection/death rate can be maintained.



The Get Creative Festival which normally takes place in May has moved online this year with [#GetCreativeAtHome](https://www.getcreativeathome.co.uk/).

Newton Poppleford and Harpford Neighbourhood Plan

The Newton Poppleford and Harpford Neighbourhood Plan was updated following the six-week public consultation which took place at the end of 2019.

It was then submitted to East Devon District Council (EDDC) who put the updated Plan and all its supporting documents on the East Devon District Council website where you can also read all the comments which were received from the public last year.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak you can't visit the District or Parish Council Offices to inspect paper copies of the documents, but EDDC will try and make paper copies of the Neighbourhood Plan available on request. You can either email EDDC on planningpolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk or call 01395 571740, or alternatively contact the Parish Clerk, Mr Paul Hayward, 07711 929227 / parishclerk@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk.

East Devon District Council are now inviting further comments on the updated Neighbourhood Plan. If you want to make a representation please send your comments by email to planningpolicy@eastdevon.gov.uk which is EDDC's preference in the current circumstances. If you can't respond by email you can send your comments in writing to Angela King, Planning Policy Section, East Devon District Council, Blackdown House, Border Road, Honiton, EX14 1EJ. She'll try to monitor the post but as staff are primarily working from home can you also call 01395 571740 to

notify them of your written submission and send a copy to Paul Haywood (Clerk), Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council, Plumtree, Old North Street, Axminster, EX13 5QF.

This consultation phase began on 18th March 2020. It was due to finish after 6 weeks but due to the Coronavirus situation it's now been extended a further 4 weeks so you have until 29th May 2020 to send your comments in.

Please call or email Angela King if you wish to discuss any of the above (aking@eastdevon.gov.uk, Direct tel: 01395 571740)



History

Bite-size history

Every weekday just after 1.15pm on BBC Radio Devon Dr Todd Gray will be presenting ten minute features on little-known aspects of Devon history. These are intended to offer a temporary diversion from the current crisis and lessen our sense of isolation.

Dr Todd Gray has a longer article on earlier pandemics published in the Devon History Society's "Lock Down Times". There are several other interesting articles, including a record of Devon in the 1920s with lots of pictures.

Lock Down Times is available at <https://www.devonhistorysociety.org.uk/news/dhs-lockdown-special-newsletter/>



90 years ago, on 24th May 1930 British aviator Amy Johnson became the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.



Hello from all of us at RSPB Aylesbeare and hoping this edition finds you all safe and well.

While many of our RSPB visitor facilities have had to close due to COVID-19, as registered common land our reserve remains open for people to enjoy the natural world as part of their daily exercise. Here are a few tips for enjoying our reserve safely:

- Please DO maintain a physical distance of at least 2m from other visitors not a part of your household
- Please DO wash your hands before and after enjoying the reserve
- Please DON'T congregate on paths or near entrances to allow others to safely enjoy the reserve
- There is NO car parking on the reserve

As the breeding season kicks into gear for our ground-nesting birds we also ask visitors to keep all dogs on leads around the reserve. We know it is good to allow your dog some freedom but many of our birds are extremely sensitive to being disturbed by what they view as a predatory animal, and any disruption could cause their brood to fail. We are hoping that the fine weather will mean a successful year for our key breeding birds, with very early records showing like it should be good year, but prolonged dry spells

do come with a heightened fire risk. We carried out a lot of work earlier in the year to widen the fire breaks across the heath and have continued to do some maintenance using the tractor mower to ensure all our fire breaks are as effective as possible.

Our ponies remain out on the heath – they are all in good health and are picking up the slack for us now we are less able to undertake our usual habitat management works. The wildlife is also carrying on as usual, we've seen plenty of common lizards and adders on the heath, they are particularly sensitive to disturbance at this time of year so another good reason to keep your dog on a lead!

This is the time of year to dust off your butterfly ID skills as they are out and about soaking up the spring sunshine, orange tips, speckled wood, green veined white, brimstones, peacocks, red admirals have all been spotted.

We await our summer residents, but a few species have made that incredible journey already, swallows, house and sand martins have been seen on the river, wheatear, chiffchaffs, willow warblers seen on the reserve, as towards the end of the month we welcome the arrival of Nightjars – one of our special visitors and probably my favourite bird, If you aren't able to get out onto Aylesbeare during this time, check out the RSPB website or find us on facebook to get your daily dose of nature and find new ideas to keep yourself and the family entertained while you're at home and in the garden. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

All the best from us, stay safe!

The team at Aylesbeare

Clinton Devon Estates

Doing today what is right for tomorrow.

The Rolle Estate Office and *Bicton Arena* closed weeks ago, but where possible the rest of the Estate remains open and operational.

All necessary adjustments have been made to ensure that the health and safety of tenants, employees and visitors as well as livestock welfare is maintained, despite this unprecedented and very challenging situation we all find ourselves in.

Many staff are now able to work from home but for the farm team this isn't an option as cows and heifers still need to be fed and looked after.

The team at Clinton Farms has successfully adapted their entire milking operation to ensure staff can meet social distancing requirements whilst keeping the milking parlour running and caring for hundreds of cows, every day. Our milk vending machine at Otterton Mill has seen sales double since the pandemic began and we have reduced the cost to a pound per litre to further support local communities at this difficult time.

All communities across the Estate seem to have established calm and organised systems to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and isolating.

By working alongside these local resilience networks, *Clinton Devon Estates* have been exploring ways to offer both practical and financial support to many of these projects. Contact us if you think we can help.

Many people are making the most of their daily exercise to explore local footpaths, bridleways and even roads whilst the traffic is reduced. Take a

moment to check any off-road routes on a map or phone app beforehand and please don't put those living in rural properties, farmer workers or their livestock at greater risk by taking shortcuts or detours especially into farmyards and fields. Signs were installed recently on 30 gates across the farm to remind anyone who might be less used to exercising on farmland about the importance of this. With increased footfall, it is vital that everyone sticks to Rights of Way and always picks up after their dogs EVERYWHERE they go. This initiative has already reduced the number of walkers wandering across the farm and should hopefully keep our cows happier and healthier.

Although many recreational sites across East Devon have closed, the *East Devon Pebblebed Heaths* remain accessible for air and exercise. Government guidance is clear about the need to stay home as much as possible, but there has never been a more important time to contribute to mental and physical wellbeing of local people enabling them to escape for far-reaching views and relative solitude. We have received thanks from many who value this aspect of the heaths, more than ever including several from key workers grateful for the chance to get outside after a long shift.

The Pebblebed Team

hope to continue to support public access whilst managing the site for wildlife over the coming weeks. Vital conservation work includes keeping the heath safe from fire, improving habitats and surveying the rare wildlife. *more next page*

Clinton Devon Estates - cont'd

Our rangers are also monitoring visitor numbers and behaviour and staying alert for fly tipping and wildfire. Fourteen grazing ponies have arrived to help with vegetation management in the Hawkerland valley so if you are out and about, remember to close gates and take extra care when driving between Joney's Cross and Hawkerland Road.

There is also still a good stock of Pebblebed Beef for people to buy so contact stantyway@gmail.com for price list and to arrange collection from Otterton. Delivery may be available for larger orders.

If you can't get out just now to see spring unfold in the countryside, maybe follow *Clinton Devon Estates* or the *Pebblebed Heath Conservation Trust* on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to see regular updates and information. Stay safe and well.

kate.ponting@clintondevon.com
01395 443881

Heath Week 2020 – cancelled

The partners who organise Heath Week met by video link and made the decision to cancel all the events scheduled for Heath Week 2020, which was due to start on 25 July.

With your help, we had arranged an amazing week offering a variety of activities for all ages and interests. However, now the decision is made, we must look forward to creating a similarly action-packed week for 2021 and hope you will still want to be involved. The dates for Heath Week, next year will be Saturday 24th to Friday the 30th July, with the *Family Festival Day* scheduled for Sunday 25th July 2021

Devon Wildlife Trust

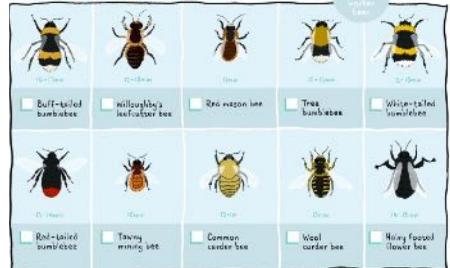


Hello there!

It's a tricky time. Many of us have been social distancing/self isolating for a several weeks now BUT the sun is shining, spring is springing, and we're going to try to bring a smile by giving you some wild things to do at home, and some good news, so read on!

Keep an eye out for what is all abuzz outside YOUR window with [this handy BEE ID guide](#)

Bee identification



Social media moments!

Just in case you missed it, you LOVED this video of an otter Mum and her 2 little cubs at the River Teign. [Click here to watch it.](#)

Like these barn owls, we know that it can feel a bit 'cosy'(!) at home at the moment, which is why we're going to transport you to the world outside your window through this article.

... continued next page

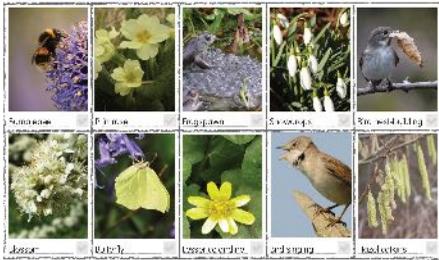


Take action for insects today!

Insects are in trouble. Today, 41% of insects face extinction. BUT it's not too late. [Sign up to TAKE ACTION for insects](#) in your home and garden. You'll receive a **FREE** Action for Insects guide with all the information and support you need to start helping insects where you live. [Sign up here!](#)

How many signs of spring can YOU spot from your window? [Download the spring spotter sheet here](#)

Signs of Spring Spotter 



Spring is a time when so many flowers are bursting into colour. How many yellows can YOU spot?

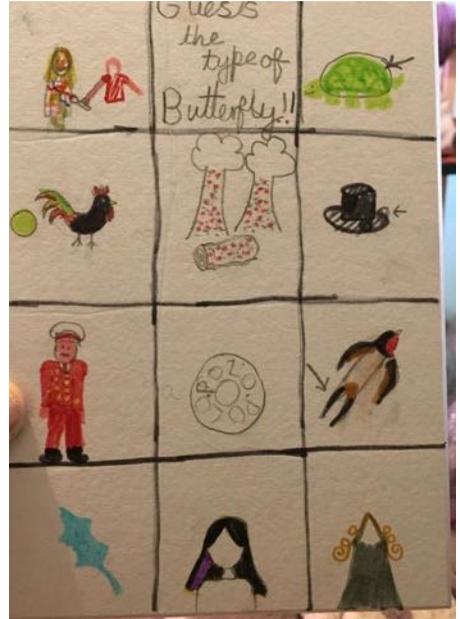
[Download the spotter guide here!](#)

Yellow springtime flowers 



On social media, you loved this, so we thought we'd share it with everyone.

That's right, it's nature quiz time!



A big thank you to DWT supporter, Maia, aged 10, who has put together this wonderful 'Guess the Butterfly' quiz, for your daily dose of nature.

During these difficult times it is not always easy to stay connected to nature so please share with us what you are doing at home to help wildlife or what you have seen that made you smile.

E: contactus@devonwildlifetrust.org or post to our [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#) pages.





Spring is finally here and although the appearance of warmer days may offer some hope, nothing could have prepared us for what we are all currently facing with the Coronavirus pandemic. Everyone has had to make unprecedented changes to almost every aspect of their lives.

Open Access areas such as the Pebblebed Heaths remain available to the public, for air and exercise. Our car parks are still accessible too, although most people are following the advice to stay at home and only make essential journeys. Had we closed all car parks, the impact might have seen an increase in drivers parking on roadsides and verges or in nearby villages to access the heaths. We took a little criticism about this decision on social media but feel this is still the best way we can serve our local communities.

We've also had some lovely comments thanking us for what we do, including one from a key worker who was grateful to have somewhere to go with her dog and blow the cobwebs away after a long shift.

Implications of coronavirus on the management of heathland

The heaths are registered as common land and are in receipt of agricultural support through Countryside Stewardship. Within the Covid 19 restrictions, our rangers have been able to continue to deliver conservation work.

This has included vegetation management, fire protection and ensuring the welfare of stock.

Additional provision has been made for them to avoid direct contact with other members of the team, contractors and the public. Paul and Ed's experience and expertise with livestock and machinery mean they could offer valuable support to other Estates teams should this be necessary.

Office staff have been based at home for over a fortnight now but are able to continue their management and surveying tasks on site as long as they go it alone! Monitoring can continue for the time being with social distancing measures in place, the first Dartford warbler surveys of the season were conducted last week (and numbers looked promising).

Despite all volunteering, school work and engagements being on hold for the foreseeable future, Kate, our Countryside Learning Officer has plenty to keep her busy, supporting all Estate teams and continuing work with local communities, albeit at more of a distance than normal!

If you are unable to visit the heaths but would like daily updates and images of the heaths and its wildlife, visit our [Facebook](#) page. Please like, interact or leave us a review. If you are not keen on social media then you can still keep in touch by replying by email, we'd love to hear how you are doing.

we wish you and your families the very best for the coming weeks. Stay healthy, stay safe and stay home and we look to the day we can all spend more time out of doors on the heaths.

The Pebblebed Team

Plantlife on the Verge

In these challenging times, wild flowers on our verges and waysides are an uplifting sight, contributing significantly to our wellbeing. It's been wonderful to see on social media many photos of botanical gems that people have spotted whilst out for their daily exercise; there is some solace to be found in nature. Roads have fallen quiet as lockdown is observed, as has the drone of many councils' mowers. Councils are under considerable pressure due to the Coronavirus crisis and many have understandably reduced grass cutting down to essential management to maintain visibility and ensure road safety. There's hope that reduced cutting frequencies might be a silver lining for verge wild flowers, giving once-familiar flowers, such as white campion, betony, greater knapweed and harebell, the chance to grow, flower and set seed.

As well allowing precious wild flowers the opportunity to thrive, reducing cutting and adopting a more wildlife-friendly management regime will also help tackle the climate crisis. Over 300 local authorities have now declared a climate emergency, so sustaining reduced cutting regimes, as recommended in our [management guidelines](#), will also help councils bring down carbon emissions.

We'll do our best in the coming months to support councils in their efforts to improve verge management, and make sure we're doing all we can to save and protect these under-appreciated, yet abundant, strips.

Hopefully this summer our verges will be awash with wild flowers and we look forward to a time when we are able to get out and fully enjoy them again.

Please share this so more people get behind the [road verge campaign](#)

Kate Petty

Road Verge Campaign Manager



The voyage of HMS Beagle

Two hundred years ago, on 11th May 1820, the British Royal Navy sloop HMS Beagle was launched. It was the ship that took Charles Darwin on the voyage around the world between 1831 and 1836 that led to his putting forward the theory of Evolution.

HMS Beagle was one of 100 ships of its class, known as coffin brigs because they handled badly and were prone to sinking. But its captain on Darwin's voyage, Robert FitzRoy, made some critical changes to its superstructure and weaponry.

This was the second voyage of the Beagle; FitzRoy was able to recruit Darwin, who was intending to be a clergyman, though he had recently graduated as a naturalist, as someone of a like mind who could be relied upon to research geology and natural history ashore.

The voyage lasted five years instead of the intended two, and Darwin became famous after publishing his journal, usually known as *The Voyage of the Beagle*, which was an intriguing travelogue as well as hinting at Darwin's theories on species.

The ship itself was believed lost, but in 2004 its remains were perhaps located beneath an Essex marsh.

Gardening

No better time to be out and about in the garden, enjoying the fresh air and creating colour and food to refresh body and soul. Even if you've only got space for a window box or hanging basket.

The Conservation Foundation <https://conservationfoundation.co.uk/> have a number of encouraging projects to help you enjoy gardening and your wider appreciation of the countryside around us. In particular they have launched "Gardening Against The Odds", which celebrates the power of gardening to overcome all kinds of 'odds' and improve mental, physical and community wellbeing.

GATO is for everyone. If you don't know a dandelion from a dahlia, it doesn't matter. With the help of the Conservation Foundation's network of gardening and environmental friends and experts, we'll share tips and ideas for first time gardeners as well as old gardening hands. We'll look at no-garden gardening to make the most of a tiny space and ways to use new-found green fingered skills to brighten the day for passers-by or cheering up local eyesores with some living colour. There will be suggestions on what plants work well in which spaces and also help improve the biodiversity.

Tell us what works – and what doesn't. Share your triumphs – and disasters – and tell us if gardening against the odds makes a difference to how you're feeling.

We will be using our [@gardeningagainsthedds](https://www.facebook.com/gardeningagainsthedds) Facebook page as our main platform for sharing ideas but you will also be

able to follow along on our other social platforms.

Twitter [@conservationfdn](https://twitter.com/conservationfdn)
#gardeningagainsthedds
Instagram [@conservationfdn](https://www.instagram.com/conservationfdn)
#gardeningagainsthedds
LinkedIn [@theconservationfdn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/theconservationfdn)
#gardeningagainsthedds

Or send your pictures, videos and stories to the foundation.

We all know gardening is good for us. Now's the time to let your imagination loose, get your hands dirty and start Gardening Against The Odds.



Take exercise for even half an hour a day – and lower depression!

Here is some good news for us all: if you are feeling low, get moving. A recent study at Harvard has found that even just half an hour of exercise a day can lower the risk of depression by 17 per cent.

So – even though we are told to stay home at present, do a work-out in your living room, run around the garden a dozen times, or run up and down your staircase 20 times - anything to get your heart pounding and your body moving!



Tokyo's Olympic Games

This year's Tokyo Olympic Games have been postponed for a year because of coronavirus. But 80 years ago, the Tokyo Games scheduled for May 1940 were cancelled completely, because of World War II. Originally rescheduled for Helsinki, they were eventually abandoned, and the Olympic cycle did not restart until 1948 in London.

The FORCE Cancer Charity Support & Information Centre
is temporarily closed

but we are still here to help

Monday-Friday 09:30-16:30

For cancer support and information
plus advice on claiming benefits

☎ 01392 406151

✉ support@forcecancercharity.co.uk

For psychological and
emotional support

☎ 01392 406168 / 406169

✉ help@forcecancercharity.co.uk



Help protect your local cancer charity

To protect FORCE beyond the Coronavirus pandemic, chief executive Meriel Fishwick has called on communities that the charity serves for their support.

This is her message to everyone who cares about FORCE: "We are thankful for the Government's announcement of support for charities, particularly those like FORCE who are still providing services during the Coronavirus pandemic.

"However, we will have to put a really strong case to try to get a share of these funds and that's where you can help.

"Quite simply we are asking people to write a paragraph on **why Devon and its communities need FORCE Cancer Charity.**

"We **must** send the decision-makers a clear message about just how important FORCE is to so many people.

"Help us fight for our survival by joining this campaign, and encourage everyone you can to get involved and give us the people-power we need to fight for FORCE.

"You can email us at

connect@forcecancercharity.co.uk or contact us via [Facebook](#) or other social media channels.

"Send your messages, spread the word and help save FORCE.

"THANK YOU."

The charity's income streams have almost entirely dried up but the Government has promised £370 million for small and medium sized organisations at the heart of local communities which are making a big difference during the COVID-19 outbreak.

With its support centres in Exeter, Okehampton, Tiverton and Honiton temporarily closed, FORCE has redesigned its services to offer ongoing help and advice cancer patients and their families.

Patients are continuing to receive chemotherapy in Okehampton and Honiton – FORCE pays for the nurses who deliver treatment.

Information, including benefits advice, and counselling appointments are happening via phone and video calls.

If you or someone you know is affected by cancer and needs support, please call:

01392 406151 for cancer support

01392 406168/406169 for

psychological and emotional support

Tearfund –

still working around the world

“As you would expect, Tearfund's work will continue through our amazing network of courageous Christian partners and churches around the world.” So says Nigel Harris, CEO of Tearfund.

“We are doing all we can to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, bringing practical help and powerful hope to the most vulnerable people, just as we have been doing for over 50 years.

“We are asking for God's protection and his wisdom to deal with this unprecedented global situation. We would greatly value your prayers in the months ahead.

“In the coming months, we may need to ask you again to dig deep to enable us to continue meeting the needs of the world's poorest communities. Myself and my whole team at Tearfund will be digging deep into our own reserves of time, energy and resources to enable our vital work to continue.”

More at: <https://www.tearfund.org>



Five Tips for Tackling Loneliness and Isolation

The Church of England has published a leaflet giving five tips to help loneliness:

Pray. Light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.

Talk about how you feel. This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but do use the telephone, internet, and social media. If you need to contact

a counsellor this can be arranged by your GP, or via local agencies, or privately. [Samaritans are there](#) 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.

Focus on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.

Look after yourself - physically, emotionally, spiritually. Plan in things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.

Look after others. Even if only in small ways, but do what you can: a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/dealing-loneliness-and-isolation-five-top-tips>



Mothers' Union knows that these are very difficult times for families.

“We know that our work and experience in re-building communities and supporting family life is going to be more important than ever once the threat of COVID-19 subsides. Our members will be ready and be some of the first in line to support those around them.” Until then, it welcomes people to stay connected with MU on social media.

More details at: <https://www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/our-response-covid-19>



If you are swept off your feet, it's time to get on your knees. - *Fred Beck*

"The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness
gentleness and self control.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also
 behave in accordance with the Spirit"



Mouse Makes

How many
 other words can you find
 using the letters from:

**FRUIT OF
 THE SPIRIT?**



Read
Galatians
 5:13-26



UO
 NTRV
 GRACEGOD
 BTHELPEACE
 TPATIENCEI
 JGTRUSTRJ
 CRLORDLEE
 AKINDNESS
 LOVEHONTU
 MJERODEKS
 GOODNESSS
 CAYMOELS
 OBLESSIS
 NFRUITGP
 DTYHOLYHI
 ASELFCONTROL
 AU CONSIDERATEOARTMIEVER
 EBN INTEGRITYODYCARESNE
 BICOMPASSIONEACYANT
 ATOLERANCESIELOEITH
 YGENEROSITYDTRRS
 FAITHFULNESSYDYT
 GOODWILLP

Which
 symbol goes
 with which fruit?



LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
 AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
 PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
 GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
 FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
 SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

31st May - Pentecost Not a Ghost but a Gift

We used to call it Whitsun – 'White Sunday' because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. No processions nowadays, and we've even changed its name. It's now 'Pentecost', which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of his followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and his resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out his Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of his words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians

Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.

By Canon David Winter



Easter egg donations break records

This Spring a record breaking 3,000 Real Easter Eggs were bought and donated to food banks through a usually 'quiet' online scheme. The 'Donate an egg to a food bank scheme' is run by the Meaningful Chocolate Company which, for the past ten years, has been making The Real Easter Egg.

David Marshall CEO said: "What is moving is that people were donating their purchase to someone they will never meet or hear from, but they trust that the Easter story, which come with each egg, will make a difference and the chocolate egg give a treat. One customer told us she had a legacy from her father and wanted to use some of it to send a pallet of eggs to those in need.



WHO's Year of the Nurse

When the WHO (World Health Organisation) decided to make 2020 the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, they based it on the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth on 12th May 1820.

But with the arrival of the coronavirus, it is a remarkably apt year to celebrate all that nurses do for us.

