

***DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH AND  
CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS***



Photograph by Noreen Gilhespy

***May 2020***

***MAGAZINE***

***Free***

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**Church Secretary:** Chris Penn

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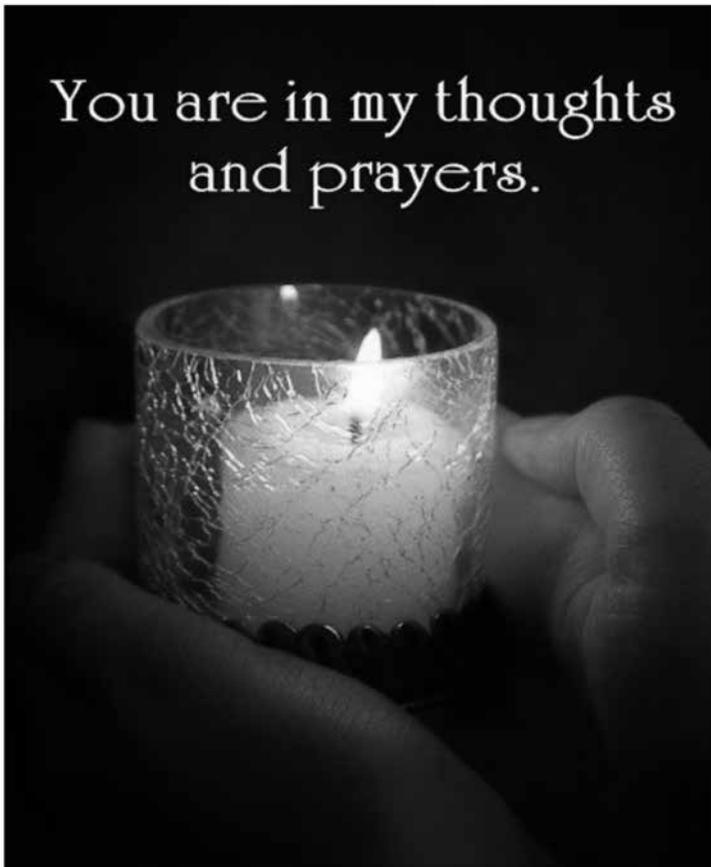
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Dear Friends,

This cartoon is based on the famous 1915 recruitment poster to encourage enlisting in the forces during World War I.



I wonder what our children and grandchildren will make of how we reacted to the Great Pandemic of 2020. While many people – and the numbers are beyond initial expectations – have volunteered their services to help the country, the majority of us will have helped the country by doing nothing.

Doncaster Council shared the story of Stanislav Petrov, whom they described as ‘The man who saved the world by doing nothing’. In 1983 Petrov commanded a Soviet Union early warning site to spot incoming American missiles and respond in kind. In September 1983 the computer system showed 5 missiles heading towards the Soviet Union. This struck him as odd. Why send just 5 missies when they have the capacity to send many times that number at once? Colonel Petrov decided to wait. And do nothing. It turned out that this was the correct course of action as it was the computer system that had malfunctioned and there were no missiles coming his way. By doing nothing, Stanislav Petrov saved the world.

Nothing is all we have been asked to do. Except that we won't have done absolutely nothing.

Catriona and I about to start our third jigsaw puzzle and those forgotten corners of the house where things and dust accumulates have now seen the light of day. *Bargain Hunt* has uncovered a previously well-hidden talent for knowing the difference between old junk and antique.

Jonny and I, with Danny's technical backing have been producing Sunday services that have been podcast and distributed on CD and we have been live streaming a short prayer time each day on Facebook. We have even held a virtual after church coffee time.

What will life be like after the lockdown is lifted? I wonder how much we will have learned during this time. I hope it will be more than which hallmarks to look out for on Georgian silver. I hope that I will have learned how to be still and look, something I rarely do. I hope that this experience of frustration at having limitations imposed on my life will help me have some grasp of what life is like for a person whose life is limited by physical or psychological ill health or an inmate in one of our prisons.

I hope that this experience will help us as a church to be more aware of how we exercise pastoral care – and how we practise being a Christian community.

Best wishes

Simon

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## ***Church Finances***

Our church finances are generally healthy, but we are experiencing a significant loss of income at this time because of all our room lettings having been cancelled. While the majority of our income from the congregation comes through standing orders, we have also lost our 'loose offerings' at Sunday services.

I am conscious that many individuals are experiencing a loss of income at this time, and so it is with some hesitation that I make this request. If you are someone who chooses to make an offering to God at Sunday services, could you consider doing so in a different way?

We are happy to receive bank transfers and the details are below:

60-18-11  
42087783

If you decide to make an offering in this way, it is helpful if you are able to email our Finance Manager, Liz Blight, [lizblight@gmail.com](mailto:lizblight@gmail.com), so that she can connect up the entry on our bank statement.

Alternatively, we can still receive cheques and these can be sent to:

Liz Blight  
63, Dalton Street,  
St Albans  
AL3 5QH

*Simon*

## ***Stay in or give up?***

**“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4**

In life, not many of us end up either where we thought we would be, or doing what we thought we would be doing. But we are where we are, and we're somehow still making progress.

Georgene Johnson was forty-two years old when she ran the Cleveland marathon ... by accident. She thought she'd lined up for the 10km, but she simply kept on going with the others for another 32km to complete in just over four hours. She later said, “This isn't the race I trained for. This isn't the race I entered. But, for better or worse, this is the race I'm in.”

We may face situations we feel ill equipped or unqualified to deal with, but the Lord allows us to face them to develop our faith and dependence in him. Charlton Heston was the star of the movie *Ben Hur*. Cecil B. DeMille as producer wanted Heston to learn how to drive a chariot for the all-important chariot race towards the end of the film. It would lend greater authenticity to the production. Heston was willing to take driving lessons, but learning to drive a chariot with horses four abreast was no simple matter. “I think I can drive the chariot all right, Cecil,” said Heston, “but I'm not at all sure I can actually win the race.” DeMille replied with a grin: “Heston, you just stay in the race, and I'll make sure you win!”

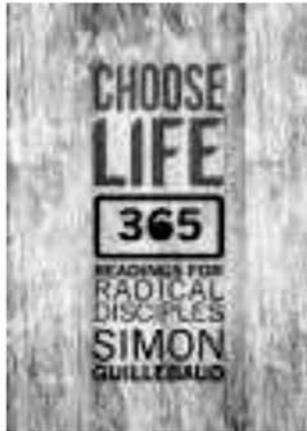
That's what God says to you today. You may be way out of your comfort zone, doing things you never thought you'd have to do. You may think others could do it better, so you want to step down and give up. But no, the testing of your faith develops perseverance. He's the Great Director, so listen to him: “Just stay in the race, and I'll make sure you win!”

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**A Prayer:** *Lord, help me to stay in the race today, for your glory. Amen!*

**From:** CHOOSE LIFE (365 readings for radical disciples)  
by Simon Guillebaud.  
Published by Monarch Books. With Permission.

Submitted by *Ewen Gilhespy*  
(Co-ordinator of Bible Reading Notes)



# Pippa and Toby Vokuhl

## STAYING IN - LOOKING OUT

April 2020



[www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl)

As we are approaching Easter 2020 we are finding ourselves staying in, confined to our house, well into the second week of a strict lockdown enforced by the Nepal authorities. But as you know, we are not alone in this, as the recent global spread of the Covid-19 pandemic is putting individuals and families around the globe in a similar position, where life is lived from one's house or flat, and where communication mostly happens via phone or internet. Much has already been written about the challenges and opportunities associated with this new state of 'being', but below are some of our thoughts and prayer requests specific to our situation in Nepal.

So far, Nepal appears to have been spared terrible numbers of Covid-19 positive cases, but as testing equipment starts to arrive, confirmed case numbers may well go up in the weeks to come. A good number of friends and fellow expats recently left the country whenever travel opportunities arose.



We miss them dearly, but we also are at peace about remaining here for this time. After all, INF needs to be staffed and prepared for potential future emergency responses, ready to serve needy people at this time of challenge. Expats from different professional backgrounds also form part of the INF Covid-19 response team. Our last blogpost 'Of Covid, Cacti, and

Coucals', uploaded a week ago, probably summarises our current thoughts and feelings best. I include a link: <https://annapurna-murmur.com/blog/>. To pick up on a few strands from the blog post:

Workwise, I am grateful for some recent funding we received from the WHO, which translated into over 120m of new footpaths at Green Pastures Hospital, benefitting walking-impaired patients as well as staff. Fortunately, this work was fully completed before the lockdown.



I am continuing to lead through the Pre-Construction stages for a new Staff-Accommodation block at Green Pastures Hospital. We are grateful for a firmly committed sum by an individual donor, in the knowledge that the new building will facilitate medical specialist placements, and therefore lead to improved services for patients. Do join me in thanking God for that, and do pray that I can work productively with local consultants even during lockdown, and respond to the changing circumstances as required.

As a family we are doing well, but appreciate your prayers for the different aspects of living through the Covid-19 situation here. Staying means dealing with the losses of friendships as some expats suddenly leave, managing uncertainty and stress levels, and finding

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ways of functioning well as a family within the confined home environment. You can particularly pray for our health and protection from the current Corona virus. Ventilator provision and skilled ICU care are both lacking here.



Please also pray for PSC, our children's school, and for teachers, as they need to implement new distance learning models from next week.

The fact that the country is closed for business at the moment has very direct implications for many daily wage earners and the poor. We see God's goodness and love however in the response of the local Christian community to that crisis, as Christians are fundraising and assisting each other and local Government with food banks. Praise God, this is a great witness.

We would be so delighted if Nepal was spared a major Coronavirus outbreak, and we continue to pray for that. Please also pray for NGOs like INF, UMN, Government medical facilities, and local response teams, that any days and weeks without exponential increase in case numbers are being used to prepare the country well.



Though physically staying in, in prayer we look outwards, and shape circumstances around us. Thank you for doing that in relation to your immediate environment, and thank you for shaping Nepal through your intercession also.

With much love from us all,

Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella, and Millie

If you would like to support Pippa and Toby Vokuhl by prayer and committed regular giving, visit [bmsworldmission.org/partners](https://bmsworldmission.org/partners) or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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[mail@bmsworldmission.org](mailto:mail@bmsworldmission.org) [bmsworldmission.org](https://bmsworldmission.org)

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Dear all,

We thought in these uncertain times it would be nice to get in touch and send you a bit of an update. We know that for so many the current pandemic will be a worrying time but we really hope that you are managing to find some normality and some form of routine. Hopefully the following will provide some distraction.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 we welcomed Jacob Peter Robinson to the world. He took his time and gave us a slight fright but he made a safe and not so sound entrance. It's hard to believe that he is 8 months old already, he certainly has kept us busy. He has definitely developed his own personality; he's quite the charmer I am glad to report that he's a great sleeper and is very much enjoying his solid foods (while we learn to live with the mess).



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Making the most of what we have available – sitting in the laundry basket while watching the washing machine and playing with all sorts of kitchen utensils!

Having a great time exploring the outdoors, even if we are only allowed on one walk a day!



Learning to play the piano and the drums! Although Jacob has now found what the 'drum' has inside – biscuits!



**We hope you are keeping well, praying for the Dagnall Street Church community!**

**Lots of love**

**Cary, Adam and Jacob**

## ***Can positive things come from negative situations?***

*It amazed me that what at first sight seemed to be a disastrous failure was turned by God into something meaningful.*

Since the age of seven, inspired by a missionary talk, I had wanted to go to a village in Africa to work as a nurse.

Feed the Hungry, a Christian based organisation, gave me my first experience, working in Rwanda after the genocide, when I was fifty. My next offer of work was in Afghanistan with a non-Christian NGO. I considered myself to be a 'strong' Christian and thought I would be fine without physical spiritual support and fellowship, reasoning that I would take my Bible and read it from cover to cover, and, together with prayer, that would be all I needed. In Northern Afghanistan the population was Muslim and no Christian NGO's were working in the area. Work was difficult, with lots of spare time spent just sitting around. When an activity was organised it was prevented by fighting between War Lords. Floods, mud-slides and broken bridges hindered our travel plans. The weather was too hot. I had to wear the national costume - including arm, leg and head covering. I got sick a few times. My fellow NGO workers brought in alcohol in lemonade bottles [alcohol was not allowed in Afghanistan] and ... what seemed to me to be pornographic videos - to help pass the time. There was quite a lot of sleeping around amongst my 'colleagues'. I felt out of fellowship and isolated. The Bible was all I had for my personal support and I started to read beginning at Genesis. This was even more disastrous as Genesis appeared to be happening outside my window! What I was seeing both inside my group and in the culture outside made me question everything I was reading – did I really believe it? Did God actually exist?

When I eventually returned to the UK, my response to these experiences was to tell God that I was, 'prepared to serve him anywhere, but not in Afghanistan'. The Swiss Christian NGO I joined

was just right for me and I was sent first to a Congolese refugee camp and then to a little village in South Sudan. After these good and properly supported times the joy was shattered as I was asked to lead a team to investigate an outbreak of measles that appeared to be very serious in Northern Afghanistan! It seemed that I was the only person in the organisation who had been there and had the qualifications as an immunisation nurse with a research degree.

As the plane landed in Northern Afghanistan I wondered what the locals would think about me returning having been a total failure before. To my surprise a young Afghan man met me off the plane saying how pleased he was to see me and reminded me that I had given him a job and really showed care towards him. He had been able to get a job with the UN on the strength of my reference and so had never forgotten me. He said people had noticed I was a Christian and there was now another Christian family in the little town and he was taking me to stay with them. It was the actual house I had lived in the first time and the room where the videos had been shown was now the prayer room. From the Minister of Health to people like my old driver, everyone had positive memories and because I was now working for a Christian NGO they offered me all the help I needed. 'If they are like you that is fine.'

I had the privilege of travelling to very remote and poor villages some not even recorded on a map. Yes, sadly measles had killed lots of children because no one had vaccinated them. I was able to make a good research report to prove the children had died from measles and then help organise a vaccination programme in the area (which was about the size of North Wales). The research also showed a really high maternal and infant death rate. My NGO was able to get more money and started Health Centres in the area. There were also two miracles when children were healed. It was one of the most amazing times of my life but, it came about despite what I considered to be the worst of experiences. So ... sometimes God teaches us in the hard times and uses us because of them!

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Crossing a river with some of the vaccine



*Noreen*



## Be Water-Wise

I must admit that saving water is something I've never been very good at. It appears to flow so freely and easily – unmeasured until recently – and since water is endlessly recycled and obviously abundant, we will *surely* never run out. It is perhaps the easiest resource to take for granted. We know, of course, that the water must be processed and purified and pumped, and all of this means energy use and a certain amount of pollution, but all that is far out of sight and out of mind for most of us. However, looking at the issue on a more local level may give us a much more compelling reason to reduce our water usage.



You may have seen last year that our local river Ver was almost completely dry for several months in the summer, when it experienced a record-breaking low. The Mimram in Welwyn and many other nearby rivers suffered similar fates too. It's not the first time the river has run dry; in local press John Pritchard of the Ver Valley Society said "It used to be dry one year in seven or ten, but the River Ver has been wet one year in seven or ten."

The Ver, like many of the rivers in southern England, is a chalk stream – this means that instead of being fed by rainwater running off the land, it's fed by springs which rise up from a layer of chalk beneath the ground. The chalk layer is known as an aquifer; like a giant sponge, it holds a huge amount of water that soaks into it during the winter and is stored there. Chalk streams are a unique and highly-valuable ecosystem; naturally wide, shallow and crystal clear, with pure alkaline waters thanks to the constant purifying and filtering by the chalk. They're also, in their natural state, constant in temperature and flow – and this means they support an enormous number of wildlife species of all kinds,

including iconic creatures such as kingfishers, otters, brown trout, damselflies and water voles. In fact, chalk streams are so unique, globally-significant and rich in biodiversity that they have been compared to other unique ecosystems such as the Amazon rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef. They're also inextricably linked to human history and the development of our settlements and culture – they're an important part of our heritage.



St Albans exists because of its chalk stream.

There are just 210 chalk streams in the world and 160 of them are in England, and at least 75% are suffering extensive environmental damage. The problems are several; pollution, invasive species, climate

change... But the big one is water extraction by water companies, to meet consumer need. Every day Affinity Water pumps tens of millions of litres of water from the aquifer that feeds the Ver and others – and after a run of dry winters, aquifer levels in our area have now been below average for four years straight. There's simply not enough rainfall to support the level of extraction taking place to fulfil demand, and the chalk streams are the ones going without.

The River Ver historically flowed for 28km but now only 17km holds water – in a good season. Low, weak water flow often stagnates and breeds bacteria, smells and toxins. Innumerable fish die and rot in the river beds. Dry stretches of river refill with water when rainfall returns, but the wildlife that usually populates such places cannot survive without the water and can take years to return.

Worse, Hertfordshire is one of the driest counties with rainfall a third lower than the national average. Yet people in Hertfordshire use more water than any other county in the UK; an average 170 litres a day, compared to a national average of 150. Ouch.

So please join me and consider how you can work a little harder to use less water. I'm sure you've heard it all before, but here are some tips:

1. Turn off the taps – and don't turn them on full blast when a trickle will do. Always turn off while you're brushing your teeth, and while you're singing happy birthday twice through...
2. Fix leaky taps and be vigilant for other leaks in the house – up to 60 litres a week can be wasted by a dripping tap!
3. Boil only what you need – don't overfill kettles or pans.
4. Shower with less by installing a water-saving shower head, or taking fewer or shorter showers. Set a timer! Around a third of all our domestic water use is in showers and baths, so this makes a big difference.
5. Make the most of water used by your appliances by filling the washing machine and the dishwasher full, avoiding half-loads as much as possible. And if your appliances are very old, consider updating them; newer appliances are almost always water- and energy-saving compared to older counterparts.
6. Get a low-flush toilet or a water-saving bag for your cistern. You can improvise this by filling a plastic bottle (as large as possible without interfering with the moving parts in the cistern) completely with pebbles and water and submerging it in the cistern, meaning that less water is used for each flush.
7. Get a water butt to harvest rainwater – and use it! You can also salvage water from your shower (put a bucket at your feet) or your washing up bowl to water shrubs and trees (but don't use dirty water like this on more delicate plants or the veg patch). Try to water in the early morning or evening

8. Eat seasonally and cut down on meat and dairy. Exotic crops and animal products use a lot of water in their production. Also try to avoid wasting food – it all uses valuable resources to grow!

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## A Watery Reflection

Scientists say that water first arrived here from outside of our world – from outer space. Yet water has profoundly shaped our planet and facilitated all life here, and all thanks to unique properties that set it apart from all other liquids. (Non-water liquids at ambient temperature include mercury, pure alcohol, pure acids, oils and many more.) The properties of water seem normal to us because we are so used to them, but in fact water radically breaks the rules of substances, and there are still many things that science doesn't understand about it!

The weight of water's molecules mean that it should be a gas at the ambient temperatures on earth: other molecules of a similar or even a higher weight are gasses. Yet water is a liquid. Its heat capacity is one of the highest among all substances: thanks to this the large bodies of water on earth and the water vapour in the atmosphere moderate the planet's temperature. The water in us helps moderate our temperatures too – our bodies are 60-80% water after all – and the same applies to plant life. Water is an exceptionally good solvent – often called the universal solvent because it can dissolve so many things – and thanks to this ability it can both nourish us, carrying dissolved nutrients in foods into our bodies; and cleanse and detoxify us, dissolving the bad stuff and carrying it away. It can be milk and soup and fruit juice and beer. It can be blood and saliva and tears.

By its strong surface tension and unique capillary action, water can flow upwards, against gravity, enabling plant life and meaning water and nutrients can reach even the tallest treetop. This effect

also helps blood to reach all the parts of our body. And that unique surface tension is why insects can rest on the surface of water without sinking, and why water forms droplets on surfaces, sometimes without wetting them.

When water freezes, it expands, and the solid part floats on the liquid part, unlike almost any other substance and despite another law of nature: heat rising. This too is crucial to life on earth: the icy layer on top of a body of water insulates the liquid water below, and allows life (sea life; pond life) to continue. Some struggle with the concept of God as three-in-one, but perhaps the three forms of water present us with a pretty good illustration. Liquid water is vast and flows through everything; boundless and omnipresent; in all life. Ice is solid and tangible with a somewhat fixed shape. Steam is invisible but pervasive; filling our spaces; moving among us unseen. You can sit in a hot tub, watching the steam rise and drinking a cocktail with ice cubes in it, all at the same time within a relatively small range of temperatures. No other substance on earth behaves quite like this.

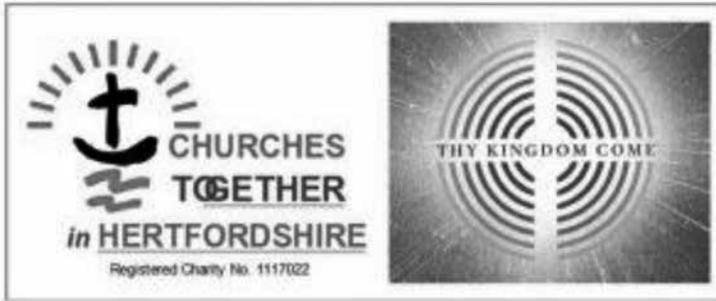
So it's from beyond our world, it breaks all the rules, it gives everything life, it protects us, it nourishes us, it cleanses us, and it exists in three forms at once. In church we are used to hearing about "the water of life" and "the living water", but I think that precious, amazing water provides a far more profound metaphor for God than we often realise!

*Naomi Distill*



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## Join the global Wave of Prayer May 21st – May 31st 2020



**Thy Kingdom Come** is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. The hope is that:

- people will commit to pray with God's world-wide family – as a church, individually or as a family;
- churches will hold prayer events, across the UK and in other parts of the world;
- people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Due to the restrictions in movement and worship relating to the Coronavirus the following planned events are now cancelled:

- Thy Kingdom Come Launch Event on Thursday 21st May 2020
- Prayer Every Evening in the Abbey
- Thy Kingdom Come Beacon Celebration Sunday 31st May 2020

**Thy Kingdom Come is of course all about prayer so please do still join Christians from across the region to pray Thy Kingdom Come and pray together that people will come to know Jesus Christ.**

This year Thy Kingdom Come in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire has been co-ordinated by an ecumenical group from the Roman Catholic Church, Methodist Church, Baptist Church, Coptic Orthodox Church and the Church of England.

***“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth. When he had said this ... he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight t... Then they returned to Jerusalem ... and were constantly devoting themselves to prayer ...***

***When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place ... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit ... and that day about three thousand persons were added.”*** Acts 1,2

***“In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.”*** Archbishop Justin Welby

### **Unlock Walk**

Unlock announced that their 37<sup>th</sup> annual London walk, originally planned for 25<sup>th</sup> April this year, will now take place next year. The new date will be **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. There seemed to be quite a lot of interest with a number of people taking copies of the route notes and maps, so please hold on to them and keep them safe ready for next year.

## Church Partners

We were looking forward to another visit from Toby and Pip-pa Vokuhl, our BMS church partners from Nepal, on Sunday afternoon 5<sup>th</sup> July. Understandably, BMS have cancelled all church partner home assignment visits this summer so this will be one of many events that will not now go ahead.

## Manor & TWAM Collections

The trip to the Genesis shop on the Manor estate in Sheffield planned for last month was postponed until further notice. Lisa, the shop manager, hopes everyone in our community are keeping safe and asks us to take care. Along with all Sustainable St Albans festival events, our TWAM collection planned for 27<sup>th</sup> May is also postponed.

*Chris Penn*



## **PASTORAL NEWS**



In these difficult times we think of those of our members who are having to self-isolate but still have to cope with ongoing problems. We remember Rosemary and those in our local care homes, as well as others who need our prayers and we think especially of Dennis and Marie, Olly and Brian

Branch and Sue Owen. Some of our members are also on their own but seem to be bearing up well. However, we do think of Muriel and Kai as Kai is still in Manipur, unable to travel.

Now the holidays are over, home schooling will start again and both parents and children certainly need our prayers!

Lockdown has affected many of our friends in different ways....we think of Jonny and Beccy and their delayed move with all its problems of finding schools, and Noreen and Ewen who are waiting to relocate to Broadstairs. We also think of parents finding it difficult to meet up with their children.

In spite of separation from family and friends, it is still wonderful that through technology we can still receive prayers and services and virtual coffee mornings. Many thanks to Simon, Jonny, Danny Catriona, Rory and Matthew. Thanks also to the deacons who are regularly checking on us all.

Lastly several of our members have had Covid 19 and we wish a good recovery to Jill and Alan, Paula, Frank and family, Jan and John and Liz and David.

***“Come those whose joy is morning sun,  
And those weeping through the night;  
Come those who tell of battles won  
And those struggling in the fight.*”**

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***For his perfect love will never change  
And his mercies never cease  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace.***

*Leslie and Marjorie Jones*



## ***PASTORAL TEAM***

The Ministers, Simon and Jonny, and members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Marjorie and Leslie Jones (01727 841845), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Liz Blight (07884 431051), Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), and Ewen Gilhespy (01707 267682) are also active members of the Pastoral Team.

Simon, Jonny and the team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.



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***I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS***  
***MAYA ANGELOU***

A free bird leaps on the back  
Of the wind and floats down stream  
Till the current ends and dips his wing  
In the orange suns rays  
And dares to claim the sky.

But a BIRD that stalks down his narrow cage  
Can seldom see through his bars of rage  
His wings are clipped and his feet are tied  
So he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings with a fearful trill  
For things unknown but longed for still  
And his tune is heard on the distant hill for  
The caged bird sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze  
And the trade winds soft through  
The sighing trees  
And the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright  
Lawn and he names the sky his own.

But the caged BIRD stands on the grave of dreams  
His shadow shouts on a nightmare scream  
His wings are clipped and his feet are tied  
So he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings with  
A fearful trill of things unknown  
But longed for still and his  
Tune is heard on the distant hill  
For the caged bird sings of freedom.

## ***THE Revd W J A TURNER***

The Revd W J A Turner ( Tony), who died on 4<sup>th</sup> April was inducted as our minister in September 1971 following a ministry at Leavesdon Road Baptist Church. Consequently there was no interregnum after The Revd Dr Morris West and Tony inherited a church with over 300 members. He was with us until March 1983 when he moved to Horfield Baptist Church in Bristol.

Towards the end of his time with us (1981) a lady assistant minister was appointed to work with him – the Revd Joan Bristow – another first for the Church.

We shall always remember Tony's ministry – his sermons, sound wisdom and counselling in complete confidence and his infectious laugh and humour.

He enjoyed painting and art work with a special love of boats. Jean was always by his side – supporting and encouraging him and doing so much of the work especially amongst the Women's meetings etc. Jane and Michael through their teenage years played their part in the Girls Brigade and Youth work.

I was the first deacon to be elected in Tony's ministry. The Wednesday Coffee Mornings were started by Linda Williams in the old Cross Street buildings.

Other projects included during his ministry were:-

- • The revamp of the organ and moving the console to its present position
- • A big effort by church members to revamp the large hall and kitchen
- • The Church Lighting was updated and 2 back rows of pews removed to create our present vestibule

The Church had many other new activities during the week apart from the Sunday services such as to name a few, Summer Sessions, bi-monthly Area House Groups, and the link with the Church in Worms.

Both choirs, Senior and Junior, were very active and presentations done included, amongst other events:- Elijah, Grain of Mustard Seed, Ruth and others. There was a Flower Music Weekend.

Amongst other highlights during his time with us we joined in with other churches in St Albans for Songs of Praise recorded in the Abbey and in October 1982 we did a morning service on ITV. On that occasion there were no spare seats! We had both the Junior and Adult choirs, we had David Sidnell doing the Childrens' talk and over it all we had Tony in the pulpit fully in charge of events and obviously our preacher.

Through the years Tony & Jean have regularly spoken of the happy years spent at Dagnall Steet with their children Jane & Michael, and later Jean's father Percy and little dog Max.

*Bill & Elizabeth Allen*



***From ENDYMION***  
***By***  
***John Keats***

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever;  
Its loveliness increases; it will never  
Pass into nothingness, but still will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.  
Therefore, in every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,  
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman earth,  
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,  
Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways  
Made for our searching—yes, in spite of all,  
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,  
Trees, old and young, sprouting a shady boon  
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils  
With the green world they live in; and clear rills  
That for themselves a cooling covert make  
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,  
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;  
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead,  
All lovely tales that we have heard or read -  
An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.



***PSALM 121***

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

## ***Coronaverses from the Times TMS (the Times diary)***

All verses in the style of.

A Hous(e)man's lament:

"Flat on my back with viral ills and masked from mouth to nose".

"Where are those long lost big blue pills? You mother swore by those".

"Well past their sell-by date, I fear", my wife said, "Back to bed!"

I wiped away a single tear and downed a Scotch instead."

Esther Rantzen offers a twist on Blake:

"Tyger, tyger, nasty cough, wonder who you caught it off.

Was it in the New York zoo? Did your keeper give you flu?

Hope they treat you gently, later you may need a ventilator.

If the tyger doth expire, in the forest light a fire."

From a reader:

When this Covid war is over, no more house arrest for me.

When I get my City clothes on, oh how happy I shall.

I can go to church on Sunday, I can have my friends for tea.

How I'll miss young Mr Hancock, how I'll love normality.

A play on Auden:

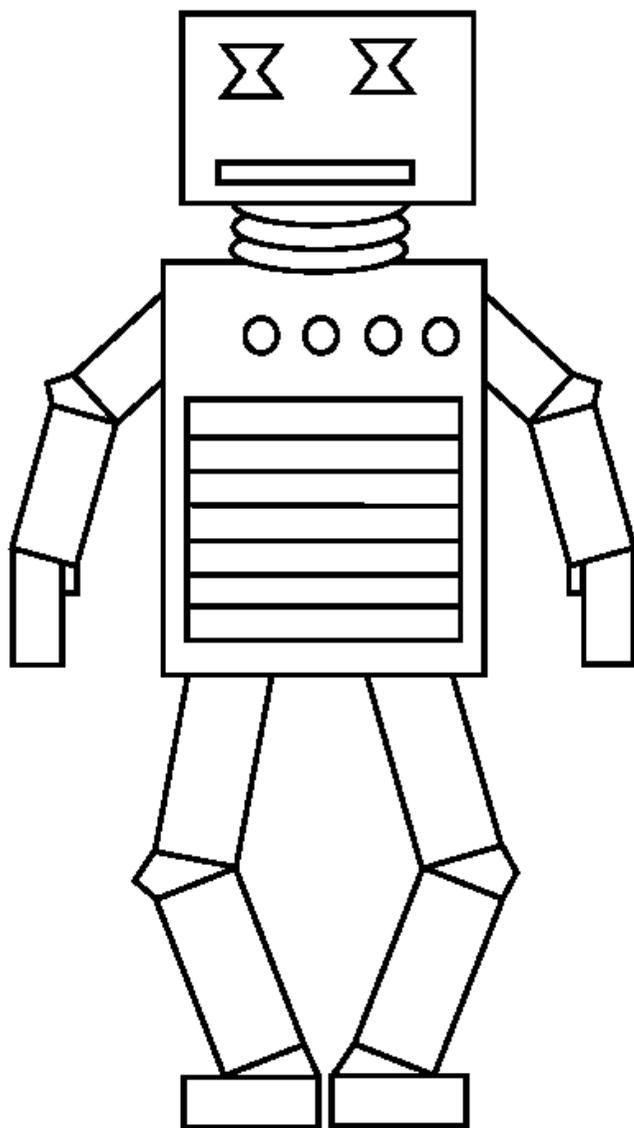
Shut all the shops, download Zoom on your phone.  
Don't dare step outside the door of your home.  
Look in the sky for a drone on your run.  
Let traffic policemen stop those 'out for fun'.  
Vow to clean cupboards, do yoga or jog.  
Then lie in till midday and lend out the dog.  
Buy all the pasta, cake, flour and beans.  
Then wonder why you can't fit in your jeans.

And one for WS Gilbert:

I am the very model of a modest isolationist.  
I keep away from pretty girls and others who I've always  
kissed.  
I put my hands together with a little bow 'namaste-ing'  
And carefully observe the etiquette of social distancing.  
So when you see me sauntering down paths in my lo-  
cality.  
Don't carp or criticise me for some basic criminality.  
I'm exercising caution and my wife and spaniel, who in-  
sist,  
I am the very model of a modest isolationist!

Edward Lear:

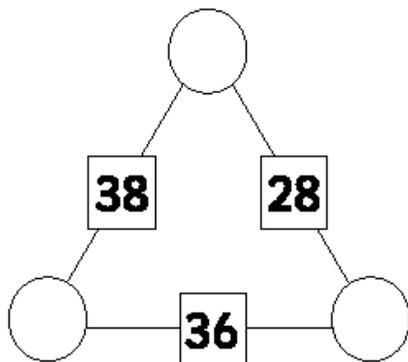
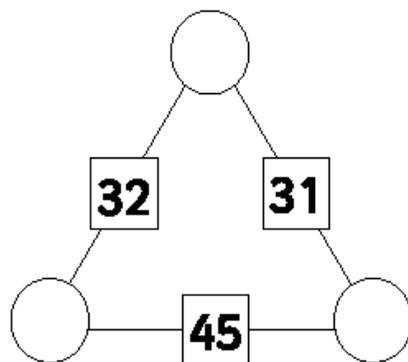
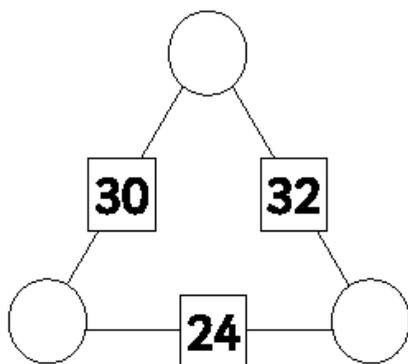
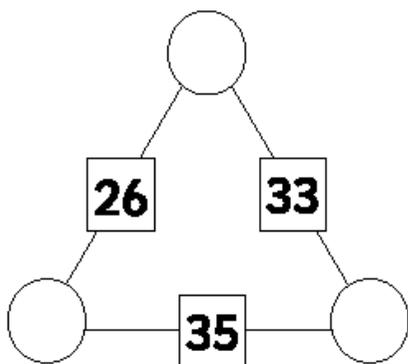
They went to shop in a mask, they did, in a mask they  
went to shop.  
In spite of all their friends could say, "You just need to  
stand two metres away", in a mask they went shop.  
And when the Chief Medical Officer said only keeping  
your distance would slow-up the spread,  
They called out aloud: "That may be so, but we don't  
care a button, we'll give it a go!  
In a mask we'll go to shop."  
Far and wide, far and wide,  
"Got any bog-roll?" they'd ask; "Not until Tuesday," the  
shopkeepers sighed.  
And they went to shop in a mask.



## Arithmagons

The number in each square is equal to the sum of the numbers in the circles on either side.

Fill in the missing numbers.



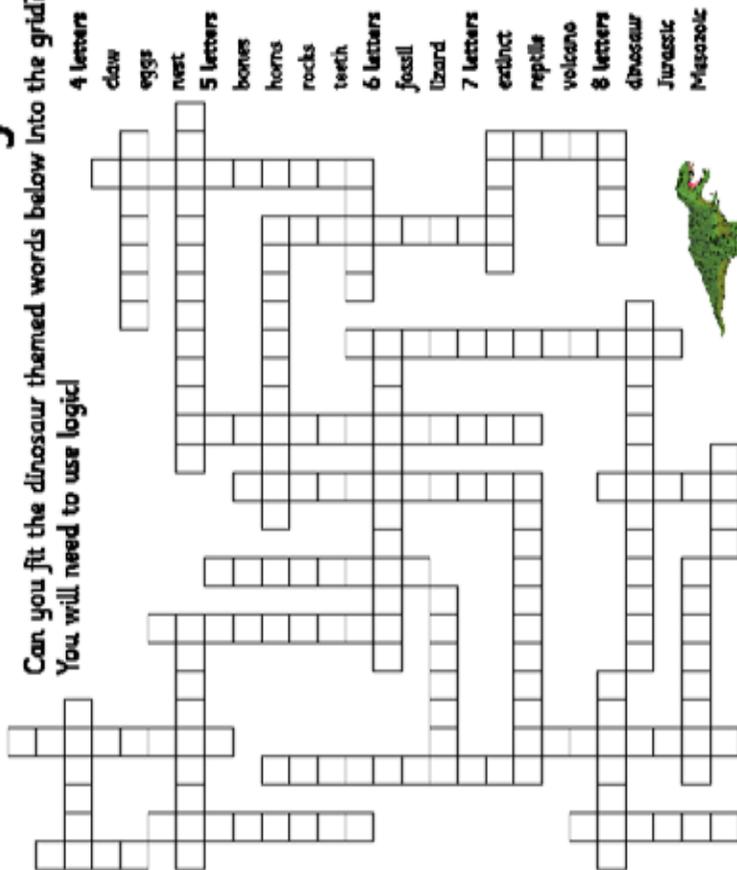
# Adjective Alphabet Challenge **A B C**

An adjective is a word that describes a noun, eg big.  
Can you come up with an adjective for each letter of the alphabet?

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

# Dinosaur Word Challenge

Can you fit the dinosaur themed words below into the grid?  
You will need to use logic!



4 letters  
claw  
eggs  
nest

5 letters  
bones  
horns  
rocks  
teeth

6 letters  
fossil  
lizard

7 letters  
extinct  
reptile  
volcano

8 letters  
dinosaur  
Jurassic  
Mesozoic



- skeleton
- Triassic
- 9 letters
- carnivore
- herbivore
- meteorite
- 10 letters
- Cretaceous
- dinosaur
- 11 letters
- prehistoric
- stegosaurus
- triceratops
- 12 letters
- ornithomimus
- velociraptor
- 13 letters
- archaeopteryx
- palaeontology
- tyrannosaurus



# Dinosaur Word Challenge

Can you fit the dinosaur themed words below into the grid?  
You will need to use logic!



- skelton
- Triassic
- 9 letters
- carnivore
- herbivore
- meteorite
- 10 letters
- Cretaceous
- allosaurus
- 11 letters
- prehistoric
- stegosaurus
- triceratops
- 12 letters
- ornithomimus
- velociraptor
- 13 letters
- archaeopteryx
- palaeontology
- tyrannosaurus

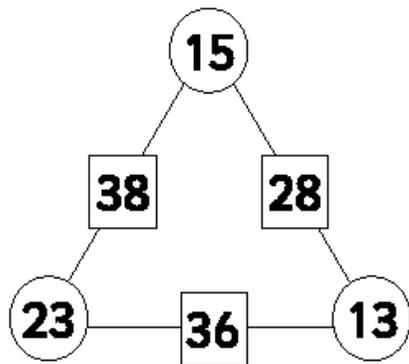
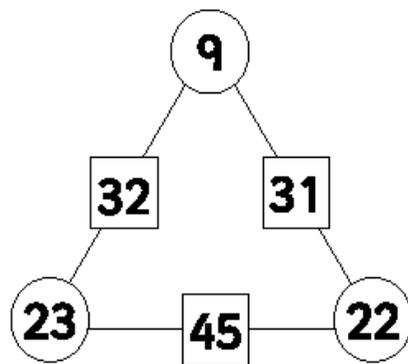
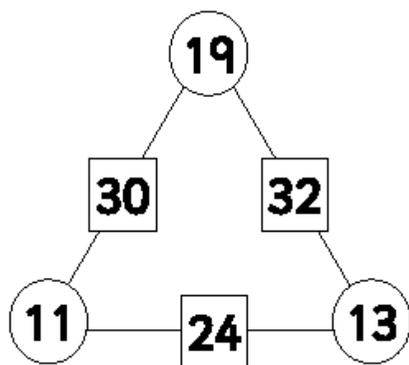
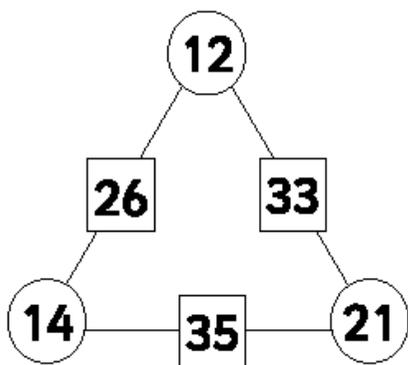
- 4 letters
- claw
- eggs
- nest
- 5 letters
- bones
- horns
- racks
- teeth
- 6 letters
- fossil
- lizard
- 7 letters
- extinct
- reptile
- volcano
- 8 letters
- dinosaur
- Jurassic
- Mesozoic



## Arithmagons

The number in each square is equal to the sum of the numbers in the circles on either side.

Fill in the missing numbers.



## **What, When and Where May 2020**

We are now into the lockdown for over a month and the advice from the government still continues.

So, our usual list of events, and activities for the foreseeable future are in abeyance. However, thanks to the initiative of Simon and Jonny, with invaluable support from our 'tech savvy' communications team, our worship services will continue, not in church but on the internet via an email link and CD versions will also be available by request. In addition, there will be a short daily prayer service streamed live from Monday to Friday. Some of these services will include communion, and we will clearly need to be creative in the way we "share" the bread and wine.

Sadly, for the foreseeable future, our regular activities, like Daycare, Toddlers, Messy Church, Who Let the Dad's Out, Scrabble, Knitting, Games, Church in the Café, Muffins with Mums etc. will cease.

For now, our phones, internet and social media are our means of keeping in fellowship with one another.

Stay safe and keep in touch.

