

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
AND
CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS



MAGAZINE

March 2021

Free

Minister: Rev Simon J Carver, MA, BSc, - simoncarver@btinternet.com

Church Secretary: Chris Penn

Finance Deacon: Trevor Oakley

Property: Ray Saunders

Site Manager and Caretaker: David Hobbs

Cross Street: 01727 846891

Bookings: bookings@dsbc.org.uk/01727 844348

Charity Registration Number: 1127791

MARCH SERVICES

	Podcast	Zoom 7.00pm
March 7th	<i>Fur and Feathers</i> John 2:13-22	Communion (see daily emails for link)
March 14th	<i>Difficult Decisions</i> John 3:14-21	
March 21st	<i>Come all you people</i> John 12:20-33	
March 28th	<i>Celebrate good times</i> Mark 11:1-11	

Dear Friends,

'Build Back Better'.

That's a slogan that has been used in a few places over the last year – two examples are that it was a slogan of Joe Biden's Presidential campaign and also of the UK government. However, its origins go back beyond 2020 – at least to 2015.



At the Third UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction a framework was set out for disaster recovery and sustainable development. The sort of disaster that was being considered included a pandemic like COVID-19. It is understandable then that organisations will be looking to 'Build Back Better' after the events of the last year or so.

Building Back Better is more straightforward when it comes to rebuilding following a natural disaster when it is an earthquake or weather-related. Buildings can be made stronger and early warning systems made more reliable. Perhaps it is more difficult when the 'enemy' is something that is invisible to the naked eye, although there is some evidence that our relationship to the natural environment has an effect on the prevalence of diseases that jump species.

I have mentioned in the past something that I heard repeated by a ministerial colleague. This is that the decline in the strength of the Church has been accelerated during this past year such that we are now where we might have been expected to be in five years' time. Whether this is true or not is dependent on whether you accept the way the projections of decline but also on what resources individual churches have at their disposal. If a church was living hand to mouth in 2019, it will be having a tougher time now than one that has some 'fat' on which to draw.

A more positive way of looking at the situation that the Church

finds itself – and I'm using a capital C to indicate the Church as the body of Christ in the UK – is that this pause has given us an opportunity to draw breath and reconsider who we are and what we are doing. That is certainly what I believe is the case for our church.

I realise that Building Back Better does not mean putting things back to exactly how they were. The whole point seems to be to make the world a better, safer, fairer place and this means that things will be different. However, I like to think that we will be building forward rather than back.

Our deacons have already begun to consider what building forward might look like. How do we achieve our aims as a community of Christian people who have been called together to worship God. What new things do we need to do? What old things do we need to do better, or may be stop doing? Time will tell.

There is much we have missed over the last year and certainly meeting together is something we have missed, but we have still been God's people, his worshipping community. The future beckons us onwards and we have an opportunity to consider how we can do the old things better and find new ways to be God's people.

Best Wishes

Simon

March 2021

Baptismal Class

We will be starting a Baptismal Class in the near future. Baptism is the way that almost all Christian communities mark becoming part of the church. A Baptismal Class is an opportunity to explore in a safe environment what Baptism means. It may lead to the individual asking to be baptised, but there are no strings attached in joining the class.

If you are interest and would like to talk further about this, please get in contact with me.

Simon





Family Service for Mothering Sunday 14th March

At the time of writing, the details are sketchy, to say the least, but we are planning a Family Service to mark Mothering Sunday. The service will go out on our YouTube channel and our young people will be involved in leading it. Although many churches produce their weekly service in this way, this will be a new venture for us.

Look out for more details in our emails.



Simon

**Happy
Mother's
Day**

March 2021

Deacons Update

The deacons continue to meet at least monthly at the moment via zoom, to review general matters of business relating to the church and particularly, matters of a pastoral nature.

We have started a discussion regarding the structure of the church after lockdown, but at the time of writing, we have yet to hear the government's 'Road Map' plans, so it will be a while before we are in a position to make firm decisions about how the future at Dagnall Street will look.

We did learn that the final total for last year's gift day, including gift aid, was now £2,212. You will recall that we deferred gift day until Harvest, and the Mission team have decided that we will do the same again this year, so our 2021 gift day will be Harvest Sunday 26th September. We will be supporting Operation Agri's 60th anniversary year appeal "Go for Growth in Uganda," and you can learn more about this elsewhere in the magazine.

Another matter of Baptist business we discussed, was the nominations for Baptists Together President for 2022/2023. After reviewing profiles of the candidates, we were unanimous in our decision. If you want to learn more about the candidates, their profiles can be seen on the BT website.

The next Church Meeting would normally have been on Tuesday 2nd March, however, due to the current lockdown, we have decided to defer it until the May meeting when we hope we will feel more comfortable about getting back into the church.

**The next church members meeting is planned for Tuesday
4th May.**

If you have any views or comments or concerns about church matters, please contact Simon, or your allocated deacon.

Chris Penn

Tuesday 16th February 2021

Dear Sponsors,

I pray that each of you may take heart in God's comfort and presence with you. Due to the lockdown here in the UK I haven't yet gone back to Haipi, although I hope to return soon.

It is at about this time of year that sponsored students would usually be writing letters to you, their sponsor. Although this connection is on hold for now, it has not been forgotten and my intention is to get students reconnected with their sponsors when I return.

Throughout 2020 all schools were asked to remain closed in Manipur and every other state in India. Boarding students had to be sent back to their villages, and from there the wardens did their best to stay in touch with those students. We had to struggle to conduct classes online, through Whatsapp. Zoom was not possible due to continued poor internet connection, lack of data and no available laptops. It turned out that we had more success in formulating paper-based questions and since students had bought their textbooks at the start of last year they were at least able to study a little.

I have been wanting to write and thank you for all your contributions which have played a huge role in sustaining Emmanuel School during these uncertain and financially troubled times as well as explain more about how we have used your money over the past year. As we would have in a normal year, we have used your donations to pay tuition fees for your students, which directly pay for teacher salaries. Along with tuition fees collected from all students we have been able to support our teachers through the pandemic by reducing salaries to half then a quarter in 2020. For those of you who sponsor boarding students, we needed to use the equivalent mess fee money for some urgent repair work for the hostel. We want to ensure that buildings are safe and ready to welcome students when they return, hopefully soon!

Thankfully, at the start of February 2021, classes resumed for Class 9 and 10, and most of these students have now been admitted at Emmanuel School.

In the coming weeks we will be having a Board meeting in order to make appropriate decisions about all the other classes as well. We will need to open gradually and cautiously, adhering to all safety procedures for Covid. I have also been in consultation with other schools in the area, which has been extremely helpful as we seek to make wise decisions.

Once again, I know I speak on behalf of all sponsored students when I say how truly grateful and thankful we are for your support of our most vulnerable and often neglected students. To know that they have been given the gift of education by you speaks to them of genuine care and love even in their troubled life circumstances. It is my prayer that as we invest in these children, we would one day see them mature into men and women of sound character, who contribute their talents and gifts within their communities.

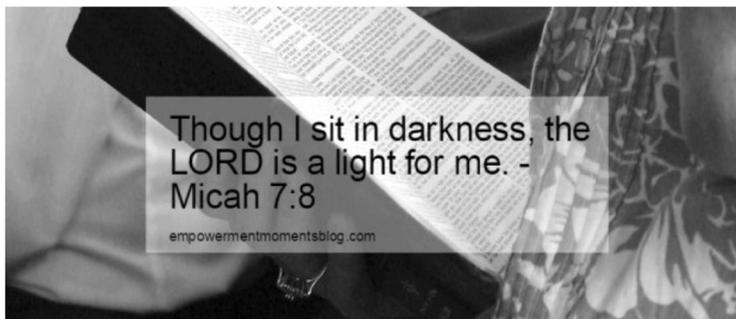
With love and best wishes,

Joanne Kipgen



Above: Class 9 and 10 during assembly last week; grateful to be back at

PASTORAL NEWS



Quite a few people are in need of our prayers at the moment for varying reasons.

Alicon Ashmore has had problems with her eyes and cannot drive.

Diane Grahame and Carole Wilson have both moved into residential care.

Paula Iddiols and Sue Owen are having ongoing hospital treatment and John Peters is awaiting a hospital procedure. Julia Plant has had her cataract operation after two cancellations we hope it goes well.

Joanne Kipgen is preparing to return to India and Sam Massey is waiting for his wife to be able to join him in the UK. Eileen Wilson, Emma and Colm Johnson, Chris and Barbara Penn and Marjorie Jones are hoping to move house soon.

The following people also need our ongoing prayers: Olly and Brian Branch, Janet Moverly-Peers, Annette Norman, Malinda Harris.

We also pray for all who are lonely or afraid at this time and all who are in fear of losing jobs and getting into debt and those who are struggling to work from home and are coping with caring for children.

We also remember our Minister and Deacons as they decide on the future of our church.

Congratulations to Nikhil and Ruth Verghese on the safe arrival of Anna Natasha.



We also have much to be thankful for in the continuation of podcasts and Zoom sessions and the knowledge that there is help online for the slower of us.

***Faithful one, so unchanging.
Ageless one, you're my rock of Peace.
Lord of all I depend on you.
I call out to You again and again.
I call out to You again and again.
You are my rock in times of trouble.
You lift me up when I fall down.
All through the storm Your love is the anchor.
My hope is in You alone.***

Marjorie Jones





PASTORAL TEAM

The Minister, Simon, 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 Jones (01727 841845), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Emma Johnson (07974 161535, Liz Blight (07884 431051), and Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), are also active members of the Pastoral Team.

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

Pippa and Toby Vokuhl

NEWS FROM A DISTANT LAND

February 2021



www.bmsworldmission.org/ptvokuhl

Why not open the 2021 season with a little news quiz featuring a distant land. We are thinking of a faraway country which is currently dry and very dusty, not swamped with mud and excess water as the UK currently is. The below picture may offer some clues.

You guessed right, the distant land we are thinking of is Nepal. Being locked down in the UK as a family, our thoughts inevitably gravitate to what is happening in our country of service, and we scan the digital news outlets for news, desiring to find good news about Nepal and its people.

Back to the Nepal news quiz. Have a try at answering the questions below:

1. A team of 10 Nepali mountaineers just received a hero's welcome in Kathmandu. What for?
2. Which mountain was recently re-measured and found 86cm taller than previously measured by the Nepalis?
3. Why were tens of thousands of Nepalis protesting in the streets of Kathmandu in January?
4. India just donated 1,000,000 of what to Nepal?
5. INF Hospital staff feel safer since last week. Why?



And the answer is?

The Nepali mountaineers were celebrated for being the first team to scale the world's second highest peak, K2, during the harsh winter season. Nepalis are very proud of their mountaineering expertise and endurance feats, and many young men train hard in order to gain a place within Gurkha regiments. Just before the hero's welcome in Kathmandu another mountain related news story emerged. Mount Everest was re-measured, and was found to have 'grown' by 86cm since the last stocktake some years ago (or might it have something to do with improvements in technology?)

Talking about numbers, there were thousands of tightly packed protesters on the streets of the capital city in January. No sign of social distancing at all. But why? In late December Prime Minister Oli dissolved parliament, fearing a vote of no-confidence, and thereby opening the doors for new elections in the spring. This development significantly destabilises the political landscape at the moment, and may hinder progress on many fronts, including matters relating to NGOs and INGOs, and their agreements or visa matters.

Such complexities add to the challenges which Covid-19 presents to a developing country, where many live 'hand to mouth' and will not have a cushion of savings, or a social security system to fall back on. Churches are fortunately active in their communities, providing aid and assistance. Only recently I spoke to Christian development workers who had delivered food aid to landslide affected villages, but unfortunately contracted C-19 during the trip into the rural areas. In light of the above we were extremely pleased to find out that India recently donated 1,000,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to Nepal, and that the rollout to front line workers has already commenced.

A friend from Surkhet, who received a first dose as she is a nurse, reported that WHO and UN staff are supervising the vaccine programme. This is very important, as corruption may otherwise lead to the loss of doses to well-heeled customers.

We understand that all frontline staff at INF hospitals have already been included in the vaccine programme and received first doses last week. Having faithfully continued their service throughout the pandemic, how much happier will they be going to work in the weeks to come. This is fantastic news indeed. We rejoice from afar and are reminded of Proverbs 25:25, "Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land."

For us as a family, the good news over the last five months of 'exile' from Nepal has been the faithful provision we have experienced. We have been through significant transition, schooling challenges, and emotional rollercoasters, but God has provided incredibly for us, specifically through friends, family members, churches, and BMS staff. Though under 'lockdown' for significant periods within the last year in Nepal and the UK, and painfully unable to connect in person with key people in our lives, we can testify that God has been good to us.



How would the Vokuhls define 'good news' for 2021 then?

We are committed to continue serving in Nepal, and might have returned to the country already, if the UK-C-19 variant had not led to border closures for UK travellers. Just now we are hearing that entry into Nepal may become possible again, so that would be amazing news.

On arrival we will start a new phase, living and working from the 1.4m inhabitant city Kathmandu, so we need to be prepared for all that a more urban life entails.

Looking ahead, good news for us would equal a good start in a new neighbourhood, a good entry into a new school for the kids, clarification of role and responsibility for Toby in his work context, and very significantly, a work visa which will cover most of the year. This is likely to be fraught with difficulty, so please do focus with us on this particular prayer request.

In fact, thank you so much for partnering with us in prayer throughout the last year. We have been so blessed to see prayers answered. Below are a few prayer points looking forward:

Nepal:

The recent dissolving of parliament is creating political instability in the country. Please pray for orderly processes and restraint by parties and protesters. Please pray that the expected second C-19 wave (which may include new variants) has less impact on the population than feared. There is limited C-19 testing in Nepal at the moment. India has just gifted 1m doses of C-19 vaccine to Nepal. Thank you, God. Please pray for an equitable distribution of this valuable gift, and for further vaccine availability.

Christians have visibly reached out to their neighbourhoods in these challenging times. Would God's love be evident through these acts of service.

INF

We are so grateful to God that INF frontline staff have received a first dose of a C-19 vaccine. Please pray for the financial situation within INF. Financial restrictions have led to reductions in services and loss of staff. There are some leadership and senior management changes at GPH. We pray for healthy processes during transition and recruitment and the right persons to be appointed.

Do pray that the GoN will sign INF's General Agreement, which is needed for all expat visa applications, including ours.

Vokuhl family

We are very pleased that God has blessed us with a suitable flat in Kathmandu, and with friends who have arranged the rental. We are all tired of this transition period and remaining 'in-limbo', but God has provided so faithfully for us all, including schooling options in the UK and in Nepal.

Do pray for Pippa in her support of schooling needs for the kids, and for a new role for her in Kathmandu

There are reports that Nepal will open the borders to UK travellers again. May this be confirmed.

Toby was accepted onto the doctoral training programme at the Oxford Brookes School of Architecture, and will carry out fieldwork relating to reconstructed housing stock when back in Nepal. We are grateful for this development.

Please pray for a solid work visa provision in 2021, allowing us to stay in the country, and serve throughout the year.

We are reminded that when Christ walked among us on this earth he indeed brought 'good news from a distant land'. There is no better news than God's offer of forgiveness, fellowship, and of a future with Him. This type of good news has the strength to sustain you, and to sustain us, and to sustain our Nepali brothers and sisters in the year to come.

I am hoping that our next prayer letter will be written indeed from that 'distant land' that is Nepal, as we re-enter and continue our journey.

Thank you for caring. With much love from us all,

Toby, Pippa, Jakey, Ella, and Mille



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



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Your new Deacon and how I ended up here!

I never intended becoming a Deacon, I'm way too busy! My rather demanding job and my role of mum to 4 young kids, along with coordinating the St Albans adoption support group and the pro bono legal work I do for a charity close to my heart leaves little time for sleep let alone becoming a Deacon. In all honesty, with the pressures of lockdown and home schooling, Simon's nudge to convince me or Tom to become a Deacon was badly timed. Tom and I discussed it, the answer had to be no.

That decision changed in a moment when some words touched me deeply – despite my resistance - I feel I was open to God's call in that moment., I had an episode of 'Nomad' playing in the background. I love this podcast, it's so honest and non-judgmental and I find the interviews with Christian thinkers thought-provoking and interesting. This particular episode was an interview with a Jesuit Priest called Father Greg Boyle who in 1986 was appointed pastor of a church in one of the most deprived areas of Los Angeles, in a church that sat between two large public housing projects, which had the highest concentration of gangs in the country. In the midst of this shocking violence and murder, Father Boyle had buried 229 men. In this desperate situation he made connections with gang members and eventually established the largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. Father Boyle was warm, compassionate, patient, wise and inspiring. So, his answer to a question from the interviewer confused me and made me sit up and listen.

The interviewer asked Father Boyle *'have you ever struggled to keep your heart open or felt cynicism when dealing with these people?'* He replied *'I have no patience with compassion fatigue or even self-care and when my senior staff say they are burning out I tell them they are doing it wrong'*. I wondered what had happened to that compassion?!

And then came the moment which changed my mind: He explained *'if you are depleted by the work then it's been about you but it can't be about you. If it is about you, then you will be frightened and burn out but if it is completely anchored in the other person and you love being loving then it will always be replenishing and you will never burn out. The answer is not that you need to care better for yourself. You do not go to the margins to change life – that's about you – you go to the margins so they can change you'*.

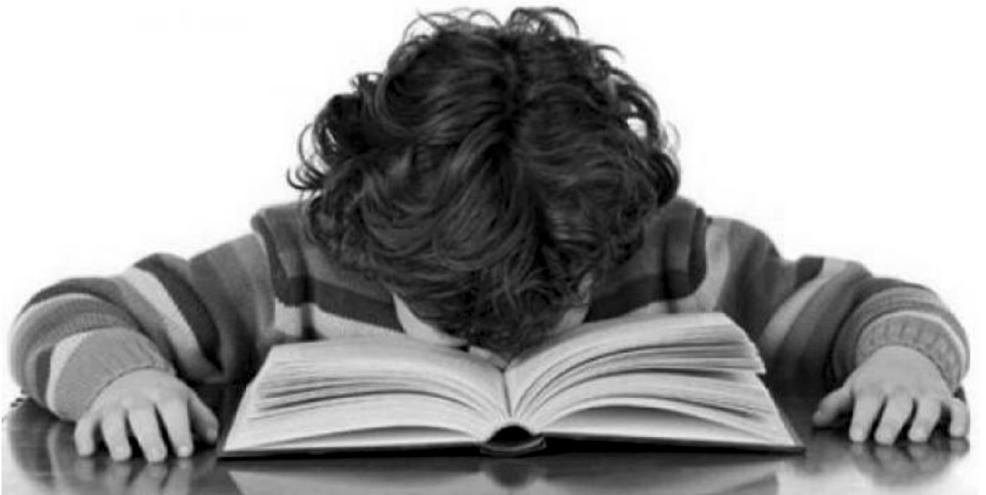
Now, by becoming a Deacon I can't say I am going to the margins but I realised that if I held onto the belief that I needed more time in my life before I could become a Deacon it would never happen. I questioned whether I could see the role of Deacon, not as a chore, a duty, another thing I have no time for – i.e. about me - but about love, anchored in the church family - and if I did could God give me the time and energy to do it and make it replenishing?

Of course, I had many other reasons not to become a Deacon, I have to confess I am no expert in the bible (yet!), I don't feel qualified to be a church leader in any shape or form, how can I possibly help bring people to Christ or even be an example? But when I asked this question, some wise words from Father Boyle made me think again: when someone asked Father Boyle *'how do you reach them [the gang members] his answer was – you don't reach them – the question is can you be reached by them'*? He was once asked after a speaking at a church *'it's all well and good what you do with the gang members but the real question is 'do you bring them to Christ?'* His answer was *'No, they bring me to Christ'*.

I realised that I didn't have to bring anyone to God, by finding the marrow of the gospel rather than settling for the text – by walking the walk - I would be brought to Christ. You, my Christian family will all reach me, teach me, shape my faith and

bring me closer to God. I'm still crazy busy and I still struggle to fit it all in but somehow, time and energy appear and when I try to approach my role knowing that is not about me but about love then I am certainly replenished.

Velma Eyre



Bird Watching Tally Chart

Keep a tally chart to record how many of each bird you saw.

Date: _____ Time: _____



Blackbird



Great Tit



Blue Tit



House Sparrow



Chaffinch



Long-tailed Tit



Coal Tit



Magpie



Collared Dove



Robin



Dunnock



Starling



Goldfinch



Wood Pigeon

Garden Bird Word Search

Can you find all of the British garden birds in the word search below?



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



BLACKBIRD

DOVE

GREENFINCH

SPARROW

BLUE TIT

GOLDFINCH

MAGPIE

WOODPECKER

CROW

GREAT TIT

ROBIN

WREN





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1st—Dennis Rowson
7th- Marjorie Jones
8th- Vera Mills and Mike Plant
9th—Liz Blight
21st- Pat Rowley

This is the last of my series about what the BMS has achieved in 2020. It concerns Hamid*, who everyone thought had an incurable illness. They called him 'crazy' or 'the mad guy' and he wanted to kill himself. He was 31 years old and lived in the West of Afghanistan. For two years he suffered with crippling depression. He would lock himself in a room to keep our his brothers and his four children or he would walk out into the desert to be alone. People in his community had no idea what was wrong with him. In Afghanistan almost half the population suffer with a mental health condition. BMS's World Mission partner is at the forefront of mental health care in the country and it is through a BMS supported community health project that he finally found help.

Because we and others gave to the BMS, Hamid received counselling and the right medication. We all played a part in this recovery. Without our help he would never have got the help he needed or found joy again. Please keep on continuing supporting the BMS Birthday Scheme.

Happy Birthday to all with a birthday in this Spring month.

***Name changed**

Linda Williams





KNITTING GROUP

Although the Knitting Group has been unable to meet for the last year, the ladies have continued to knit and I was able to take a large number of

items to Knit for Peace in September.

The ladies have continued to supply items and I hope to make another delivery to Knit for Peace in the next few weeks.

I want to thank everyone who has supported the group either by knitting, stitching or providing wool. This delivery will bring our total number of blankets to 100+ which is amazing.

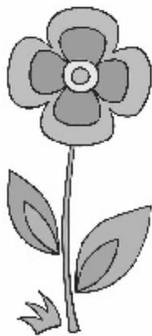
Thank you to you all.

Judy Pental



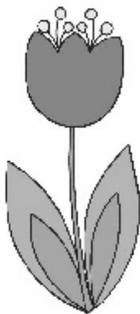
Mother's Day Cryptogram

Can you solve this cryptogram?
The answer is a quote by Abraham Lincoln.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
21				24				3				

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	11						20					



A _ _ _ _ A _ I A _ O _
21 16 16 6 9 21 6 3 21 5 11 19

E _ E _ _ O _ E _ O _ E ,
24 7 24 19 9 11 23 24 6 11 25 24

I O _ E _ O _ _ A _ _ E _
3 11 22 24 6 11 5 8 21 1 4 24 16

_ O _ _ E _ .
5 11 6 9 24 19

VINEYARD CHURCH FOOD BANK

Vineyard Church's food bank is in desperate need of essential items for their users. We arrange deliveries on Wednesdays and are happy to collect donations from you. The items they particularly need are:

For our school kids lunch bags:

Healthy snack/cereal bars (no chocolate, no nuts)
Individual bottles or cartons of juice or water
Individual fruit pots (no pineapple, please)
Small (10g) packs of popcorn (noting too sweet)
Rice pudding or custard pots (that do not require refrigeration)

For our everyday items:

Size 5, 7 and 8 Nappies
Size 6 and 7 Pull Ups
Microwave meals
Fabric conditioner
Fairy Non-Bio washing powder or liquid
Anti-bacterial surface spray
Coffee
Cow and Gate baby milk powder
Aptamil—Anti-reflux
Shower Gel
Sugar
Cuppa Soup
Crisps
Small bottles/cans of soft drinks, squash and water

Also, if you have any ***shopping bags*** that you do not need, especially any strong ones (Bag for Life), they are in need of some, please.

If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact Diane Saunders either by email: dianesaunders007@googlemail.com or on 07989 669598.

MATTHEW 25: 35

**"FOR I WAS
HUNGRY
AND YOU
GAVE ME
SOMETHING
TO EAT..."**



HELP US
SUPPORT THE
VITAL WORK OF
FEED -
VINEYARD
CHURCH'S FOOD
BANK



Gift Day Harvest Sunday 2021 “Go for Growth in Uganda.”

2021 marks the 60th Anniversary of Operation Agri and the Mission team have agreed to support their 2021 appeal for our Gift Day this year.

Recent gift days have been held on Easter Sunday, but last year, due to the consequence of the Coronavirus outbreak, we deferred it until Harvest – and we will be doing the same again this year. So, there’s plenty of time to start saving!

Operation Agri is a development charity which supports Christian-led rural and urban development projects in three continents, showing the love of Jesus in action by attacking the basic causes of poverty amongst some of the most disadvantaged people in the world, regardless of their religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

OA supports sustainable development work such as agricultural centres to assist farmers, and irrigation schemes for rural communities. OA also supports projects that bring lasting improvement to people’s lives, such as basic health clinics, and women’s empowerment groups in urban slums.

Go for Growth in Uganda, is Operation Agri’s 2021 appeal, and is their expression of Christian Love in Action by supporting the Sustainable Agriculture Farming Initiative (SAFI) and the Women’s Adult Literacy Project (WALP) in Uganda. SAFI trains struggling farmers to use low-cost local resources in their struggle to feed their families and provide themselves with an income in these days of climate change, land erosion and poverty. WALP sets up literacy and numeracy classes for women who have often missed out on education earlier in life. These classes em

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power women to run small businesses from farming or other skills.

So this year Gift Day will be Harvest Sunday, and we will advise of the preferred methods of contributing nearer the time, when, hopefully, restrictions will be less severe than they currently are. Look out for more information about this project during the coming months.

Chris Penn



Operation
AGRI

Christian love in action



38th UNLOCK WALK

Saturday 24th April 2021

Unlock is one of the Christian charities we have supported for many years through their annual fundraising London Sponsored Walk. Working in deprived urban areas across the country, they “UNLOCK” real life stories of ordinary people by revealing the good news of the down to earth Christ by releasing life changing skills and confidence. Their main single source of income is from sponsorship and donations received by walkers and churches. Last year’s “virtual” walk raised £19,000, for which UNLOCK are extremely grateful, although this was around £5,000 less than the previous year.

This year, as last year, the walk will be “virtual” and details will be available on line and through the post from 18th April 2021. The Chair of Unlock, Andrew Dorton, has written to supporters to explain:-

“Dear Unlock Walker,

This is no lightly air-brushed version of last year’s covering letter which arrived with you before Covid19 and well before we had to ‘go virtual’ with an on-line walk. That we did, and much to the surprise of some of us older sceptics, it was a real success. We had loads of great feedback from people who went on the virtual walk and, like me, again much to my surprise, really enjoyed the experience and learnt so much. The other real success was how much money it raised; not quite as much as the real one the year before, but £19,000, remarkable and a very humbling source of blessing when we thought we were very likely to have to close down Unlock, it becoming another coronavirus victim. Since the lead/prep time for the walk is so far in advance of it, and the future is still so uncertain, we’ve decided we have no choice but to stay on line this year as well. You are probably one of those who took part on line last year and sent us some money and, like I say, we were very humbled and very

March 2021

grateful. If you didn't, please do give it a try this year. I have every confidence that most of you at least will enjoy it much more than you think you might. We know it's not the same; so much has been lost in these times of forced separation and there will be some heavy prices paid we know little of yet; but this is at least one more way of 'keeping it together' until we can actually do it together again; and please do give - this way we can't thank you personally, but we will remain immensely grateful. With our hopes and prayers,

This is actually a wonderful opportunity for many more of us to support a cause which we might not otherwise, have been able to physically take part in. Keep an eye on the Unlock web site for more details and information, including details of many of the earlier London walks.

Chris Penn





It's true, we cannot reach Christ's fortieth day;
Yet to go part of that religious way,
Is better than to rest:
We cannot reach our Saviour's purity;
Yet we are bid, "Be holy even as he,"
In both let's do our best.

Who goeth in the way which Christ hath gone,
Is much more sure to meet with him, than one
That travelleth by-ways:
Perhaps my God, though he be far before,
May turn and take me by the hand, and more:
May strengthen my decays.

Yet Lord instruct us to improve our fast
By starving sin and taking such repast,
As may our faults control:
That every man may revel at his door,
Not in his parlour; banqueting the poor,
And among those his soul.

George Herbert





MathSphere

Sudoku



Fill in the puzzle so that every row across, every column down and every 3 by 3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Medium Puzzle 1

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

Clues:

1. Seek a 2 in the centre block of squares
2. Finish the centre block of squares
3. Search for 2s everywhere

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Solution page 34

MARCH IN LONDON

*The east wind blows in the street to-day;
The sky is blue, yet the town looks grey.
'Tis the wind of ice, the wind of fire,
Of cold despair and of hot desire,
Which chills the flesh to aches and pains,
And sends a fever through all the veins.
From end to end, with aimless feet,
All day long have I paced the street.
My limbs are weary, but in my breast
Stirs the goad of a mad unrest.
I would give anything to stay
The little wheel that turns in my brain;
The little wheel that turns all day,
That turns all night with might and main.*

*What is the thing I fear, and why?
Nay, but the world is all awry--
The wind's in the east, the sun's in the sky.
The gas-lamps gleam in a golden line;
The ruby lights of the hansoms shine,
Glance, and flicker like fire-flies bright;
The wind has fallen with the night,
And once again the town seems fair
Thwart the mist that hangs i' the air.*

*And o'er, at last, my spirit steals
A weary peace ; peace that conceals
Within its inner depths the grain
Of hopes that yet shall flower again.*

Amy Levy



MathSphere

Sudoku



Medium Puzzle 1 answer

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

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March 2021

**APRIL ISSUE CONTRIBUTIONS BY
THURSDAY, 18th MARCH**

Happy St David's Day on the 1st March and Happy St Patrick's Day for the 17th.

And to all the mothers Happy Mothers Day—hopefully the children will be back at school.

The Covid vaccinations seem to be going really well and we have good news about coming out of this isolation, albeit in a couple of months, but something to look forward to. And the weather is warming up a bit. It's nice to see the sun and a bit of blue sky. It's making the crocus' bloom and the daffodils are not far behind. Everything looks much better with a bit of sun.

I'm looking forward to Cross Street opening although it doesn't seem that it will happen before May. But we can keep hoping.

In the first lockdown I put a bookshelf together for my workroom but never managed to get it into the room. Well I have sorted my workroom out and the bookshelf is in situ and I have put together a second bookshelf to go beside it. I have now got to fit that one in!! Apart from that I flit between knitting, embroidery, cleaning, reading, TV and cooking my dinner! What exciting lives we are leading!!

Stay warm and safe.

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What, When and Where February 2021

Church is closed for the time being but the podcasts are continuing and the daily prayer service is streamed live Monday to Friday on Youtube. Some of these services will include communion, and we continue to be creative in the way we 'share' the bread and wine.

Zoom coffee time on Sundays at 11.30am is continuing.

Still 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 not be going ahead.

The Cross Street Cafe is closed

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

Stay safe and keep in touch.

