

The Newsletter of St.Giles', Newcastle, with St.Thomas', Butterton.

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March 2021

Parish News



LENT
Exploring
the Bible



**March
& April
What's On**



**St.Giles Church
Pumpkin growing
Competition**



**Our
Wonderful
Wardens**

Clergy:

Rector: Revd Josh Penduck (01782) 620322
revpenduck@gmail.com

Revd Peter Nisbeck

Revd Ann Taylor

Revd Jean Walker

Wardens: St.Giles'

Mrs. Gillian Elks

Mr. Dennis Brammer

St.Thomas'

For any enquiries, please contact
our Parish Administrator.

Parish Administrator: Mrs. P. Richards

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The Rector Reports..... Review of 2020



Like many churches, St Giles and St Thomas have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the review must have two halves: January-March, and March-December 2020.

January-March 2020

The PCC noted in January that attention needed to be given to a) raising giving for both churches after a considerable loss in 2019; b) applying for funds for our Children and Families' Worker, Jean Buckley; c) and clarify the nature of the Churchyard Project.

In the early months of the year, there were four large developments in St Giles with St Thomas:

- As noted in the Objectives and Activities, we began to employ a Parish Administrator, Penny Richards, from 6th January 2020.
- Relations were developed with Asha, an organisation which works with asylum seekers. This culminated in an All-Age service with individuals from Asha leading music (including African drumming). Plans were made for an Asha/St Giles litter-pick later in the year.
- A Lent Group looking at the theme of creation in the Bible had a large attendance (before being cancelled due to the March lockdown).
- A large art exhibition in conjunction with Lichfield Cathedral and Arts Council England was planned for March-April 2020. This was called 'One More Step' and would have involved collaboration with the artist Peter Walker, Potboiler Theatre, and multiple local schools and community organisations. Sadly it was cancelled several days before it began due to the lockdown.

In February 2020, we had a guest speaker from TearFund.

March-December

The COVID-19 pandemic changed all our plans at St Giles with St Thomas. At the March 2020 PCC Meeting, the PCC agreed to keep all our members of staff in employment, although on 18th May 2020, Jean Buckley was placed on furlough leave for the remainder of the year.

As part of the lockdown, all community groups were unable to use the church, all but one wedding was cancelled, and midweek events – including Little Fishes, Rainbow, our midweek communion service, the Mothers' Union, and Friday Coffee mornings – were all closed. We also had to end our monthly visits to five care homes.

As we were not able to worship in church, we instead created an online format through YouTube. This included Sunday services, Holy Week and Easter Day, a service for VE Day, and Ascension Day. My utmost thanks go to Aidan Goldstraw for ably and professionally ensuring that we have had a video each week since March, with thanks also going to Jane Perry in helping edit these videos. Thanks also go to Jane Perry, Penny Richard, Carol Stimpson, Christine Salts, Caroline Walton, and Hannah Mead, for their regular musical contributions. It has taken much time and energy for people to learn this new format of worship, yet we are profoundly grateful for the sacrifices made in doing so. The consistent high-quality nature of these videos has been noticed further afield, with people even in other countries tuning in to watch. Thanks also go to Revd Allan Penduck for guest speaker at Pentecost.

Since the end of the first lockdown in July, the following happened:

- 19th July, St Giles opened for private prayer for three hours each Sunday (12pm-3pm).
- 9th August, St Thomas also opened for private prayer (10.30am-12pm)
- 6th September, St Giles opened for public worship (9am and 11am)
- 20th September, St Giles led a small Battle of Britain service online and at the Cenotaph with the RAF Association (with an online sermon by Bishop Michael Ipgrave)
- 28th September, St Giles hosted a service for the ordination of priests
- 4th October, St Thomas opened for public worship (10.30am)
- 14th October, St Giles began our Wednesday Oasis service again

Continued on page 5 >>

What's Inside....

	Page
The Rector Reports	2
Over to You ... From the Editor	3
A Thought for the Month	3
What's On: March & April	4
The Butterton Bulletin	4
Take-a-Break	4
Rectors Report continued	5
Happy Birthday ... A Sad Farewell	6
Academy Activities	7
Our Wonderful Wardens	8
Meet the New Wardens	9
Let's Clap for Mothers	11
Zoom In!	11
Keep Them in Your Prayers	12
Newcastle News	12
Next issue Closing Date	12

Over to You...

Two New Projects for St Giles

Two linked projects are about to start at St Giles as part of the Five-Year Churchyard Management Plan funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. These naturally follow on from the Mound Project completed in 2016.

The first is the 'Headstone Strategy' to accurately record all the Headstones and Grave Markers in the Church and Churchyard and the second is to explore Genealogy with the use of DNA.

If you would like to play a part in developing these interesting projects please contact Reverend Josh, (details on the front cover).

L.Bailey

From the Editor -

Welcome to a packed March issue. Last year was like no other, and in this issue the Rector reviews 2020 and looks forward into 2021.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter take place during March & April and we feature a 'What's On' guide so that you can share these very important times with us.

Finally, after an extended term, the St.Giles Church Wardens, Chris and David have now 'retired' and two new Wardens are now 'in-post'. This new chapter in the life of St.Giles' is featured in our article, "Our Wonderful Wardens", which introduces our new Wardens.

All this and much more in an issue that I hope you will enjoy reading.

Michael Pitstow

A Thought for the Month
God must work in you before
God can work on you.

Zoom Quiz - Tuesday 2nd March, 7.30pm

There will be a **big** St Giles with St Thomas Zoom quiz.
Bring your own refreshments (and remain indoors)!

If you would like to join us,
please email Penny Richards for the Zoom link.

Further details from:-

Gillian Elks (01782) 711833

Julia Nisbeck (01782) 662379

Or email: david.elks@hotmail.co.uk



We are proposing to have a pumpkin growing competition for St.Giles Church funds over the summer months, with a grand weigh-in sometime in October. We have 30 giant pumpkin seeds which will be planted in early April and once ready these plants can be purchased for a suggested donation of £2.00, more if you would like.

Nurturing instructions will be provided and if you look on the Mr Fothergills website for giant pumpkins you will see that they can grow up to 35 lbs in weight! There will be a prize for the largest pumpkin and hopefully we can sell off pieces of the pumpkin.

Our Cover - Why not join the 'Zoom' Lent course and explore the Bible. (Image: Rod Long - Unsplash)

What's On: March & April

Services (other than Sunday services):

If Church closure continues (all online):

4th **March**, 11th, 18th, 25th, @ 7.30pm: Lent Bible Study (via Zoom) - for more information and for the Zoom link, please email Penny.

29th, 30th, 31st, @ 12pm: Daily Holy Week Reflection (online).

1st **April**, Maundy Thursday: 7.00pm Service of Evensong, followed by Holy Communion on Facebook (7.45pm)

2nd April, Good Friday: 9am, The Story of the Passion.

10.30am All-Age Worship. 2pm, Reflections at the Cross

4th April, Easter Sunday, 9am Holy Communion on Facebook,

10.30am Easter Celebration

If circumstances allow activities in the Church:

(Our Facebook page and emails will notify people)

4th **March**, 11th, 18th, 25th, @ 7.30pm: Lent Bible Study (online via Zoom) - for more information and for the Zoom link, please email Penny.

29th, 30th, 31st, @ 12pm: Daily Holy Week Reflection (online), and 1.10pm Communion Service in St Giles

1st **April**, Maundy Thursday: 7.00pm Service of Evensong (online), and 7.30pm Holy Communion (in St Giles)

2nd April, Good Friday: 9am, The Story of the Passion (online).

10.30am All-Age Worship (online).

2pm Reflections at the Cross (online and at St Giles)

4th April, Easter Sunday: 8am BCP Easter Communion (St Giles);

10.30am Easter Celebration (online);

10.30am Easter Celebration Holy Communion (St Giles and St Thomas).

SUNDAY MARCH 28th. - Clocks go forward 1 hour.

Don't Miss Out! - Zoom in! - See page 11.

Take-a-Break

Smile-A-While



The vicar went into his office to pray for peace.

Medium Sudoku Solution Page 12

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

The Butterson Bulletin



It's all quiet at Butterson, with a "Church Closed" notice near the gate.

Whilst doing a quick check at the weekend, it was reassuring to hear the heating boiler "ticking over". The recent cold spell had triggered the frost thermostat which alerted the boiler to make sure that the church had the chill taken off, which is essential for the organ and fabric of the church.

A question we asked ourselves, "Do we change the altar frontal to Purple for Lent?" or, "shall we leave the all seasons embroidered one ready for Easter?" The Easter one stayed, as Easter Day is 4th April 2021

Before the church closed, the family of Dorothy Hill, with Rev Josh held a special Remembrance service. Her children, Alison and Jonathan, together with their families, shared memories of Mum and Grandma. Dorothy's ashes were placed with her husband Brian's, in the special place of remembrance in the grounds near the south transept.

Both Brian and Dorothy have a lasting link with Butterson as Brian was organist when Dorothy was Maid/Nanny to the Harrison family. Romance blossomed at Butterson, and so it is fitting that they are now together back at Butterson Church, a place they loved so much,

Spring bulbs are peeping through at church, reminding us that Spring is coming, with longer hours of daylight. We are now make optimistic plans for our "Church in the Woods" in 2021



PAC

2020 Review continued from page 2

Ensuring that congregation members are safe at such events has meant a considerable amount of logistical planning. Thanks go to Dr Naomi Forrester-Soto of Keele University, Lawrence Bailey and Hannah Mead for their help in planning. Special thanks must go to Penny Richards for her tireless work in reading through and applying the complex rules that have emerged in the wake of the pandemic. A thanks also to Michael Pitstow for his help in providing a screen-based liturgy for our public worship.

Since 29th September, St Giles has been open to community groups wanting to use the church or church hall. This has included regulars such as the Girl Guides and the Community Choir, as well as new groups. We ensured that such groups have their own risk assessments which are rigorously applied.

With the second lockdown in November-December, St Giles opened for private prayer, though St Thomas remained shut. On Remembrance Sunday, as well as an online service, members of St Giles ministry team led an outdoor Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph alongside the Mayor, members of the armed forces and the Council. This was repeated on Remembrance Day.

St Giles and St Thomas opened for public worship again on the 6th December. During December, the following services happened:

- 19th December, St Thomas held an outdoor carol service in Butterton, with musical contributions from Oliver Pritchard-Jones.
- 20th December, St Giles put on an online Lessons and Carols service. This included contributions from our church choir, the University Hospital Choir, Jane Bailey, Kari Kirkland, and Eve Perry.
- 20th December, St Giles held an in-church carols by candlelight, led by members of the St Giles choir.
- 24th December, in-church services were held at St Giles, including a family service and a Midnight Mass (both well attended). An online 'Christmas Compline' was also held, with contributions from the University Hospital Orchestra and Newcastle Baptist Church.
- 25th December, services were held at St Giles and St Thomas.

On 28th October 2020, the APCM was held. Particular discussion was had regarding amalgamating the administrative structures of St Giles and St Thomas, and the potential for a separate weekly All-Age Worship. Gillian Elks and Dennis Brammer were elected as wardens. In the 2019 TAR I thanked David Wildman and Christine Bailey for their service to this parish, so little can be added except to reiterate my thanks once again.

In June 2020, John Maddison retired as Church Treasurer. John agreed to be church treasurer for a few months in 2017. It turned out to be a long stint. My thanks go to John for all the hard work that he has put into ensuring St Giles remains financially viable. Hannah Mead became treasurer at the same PCC Meeting, though resigned in July 2020. To ensure that the church finances were kept in order, the PCC decided to employ Kim Benton, a Diocesan-certified accountant. In October 2020, Jane McKeever was voted in by the PCC to be the new treasurer.

Financially, St Giles and St Thomas have both been hit hard by the pandemic. A combination of a large donation of £40,000 and the accumulated three years' gift aid stabilised St Giles finances. However, unless there is an increase in giving, St Giles will likely be financially insolvent in one/two years. St Thomas has also struggled deeply and is likely to become financially insolvent later this year unless giving is upped. As can be seen from the financial report, there is a large unsustainable mismatch between income and expenditure even in good months.

Many thanks also go to the ministry team – which includes Revd Peter Nisbeck, Revd Ann Taylor, Revd Jean Walker, John Maddison, and honorary assistant priests Revd Shell Penduck and Revd David Beedon – for their time and effort in maintaining consistently high standard of worship during this difficult time.

Although the pastoral network has maintained links between people in the lockdown, we should not be naïve to think that much of the communal bonds have remained completely intact. Sadly, we did not have the contact details for a considerable number of people in the church, which meant they were left out of the pastoral network. However, my thanks go to those many individuals who have so kindly and caringly kept in contact with some of our most isolated and vulnerable members of the congregation over the last few months. Much of our family network was held together through

Continued on the next page...

2020 Review continued.....

Jean Buckley, who volunteered of her own accord to keep in touch with them on a personal basis whilst on furlough.

Each year, Michael Pitstow has maintained an excellent standard of editorship for the Parish News. In May, it was decided that the magazine would for the first time go online, which has happened each month throughout the year. Our thanks go to Michael for continuing this valuable aspect of our church life.

During 2020, several members of the congregation died. Although each are precious, particular note should be made of John Ward, who served the church faithfully for many years, with particular distinction in his role as treasurer. Our thanks as a congregation go to John, and his family remain in our prayers.

Through 2020, the PCC employed three members of staff:

- Aidan Goldstraw, Director of Music
- Jean Buckley, Children and Families Worker (currently furloughed)
- Penny Richards, Parish Administrator

Future Plans

The PCC have emphasised five areas which they feel need to be addressed in 2021:

- Balancing and restoring the financial capabilities for both St Giles and St Thomas. This will be done through sustained giving campaigns in both churches. This must be done for the first part of the year to keep St Thomas financially solvent.
- Re-gathering the community after the pandemic, with particular emphasis on children and families' work (including seeking funding for our Children and Families' Worker). This may be done through the addition of a weekly All-Age Worship.
- Installing Broadband Connections.
- Buying appropriate Internal Technology for online services.
- Continuing the develop the Churchyard Project and Installing outside lighting through the available remaining funds from HLF. This will be done through the PCC Churchyard Sub-Committee.

Revd Joshua Penduck

Rector of Newcastle-under-Lyme with St Thomas, Butterton

Happy Birthday Margaret



Hello readers. A little bird has told me that the lovely lady called Margaret Sutton is celebrating a special birthday of four-score years on March 15th. We all send our love and congratulations, and thank her for all her hard work for the Church and also for rescuing and looking after my garden friends when they are in trouble. Have a lovely day.

Spikey & friends



Asad farewell to a great man who raised the spirits of a nation when it needed it most. He had just celebrated his 100th birthday and his garden walks raised over £38m for NHS charities which provides support facilities at hospitals all over the country for our hard working medical staff. A true optimist who loved life and was admired by many and who will be missed by so many more.

THANK YOU, CAPTAIN SIR TOM!

Academy Activities

St Giles' and St George's C of E Academy

As God's children we aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best we can be

Tel: 01782 91764 www.stgilesstgeorgesacademy.co.uk Headteacher: Mrs C Pointon BSc PGCE (Oxon)

Rainbow Day at St Giles' and St George's

To bring us back as a community, we held a Rainbow Day for all children and staff to focus on our hopes and dreams for the future. All children took part whether at home or in school.

Here a selection of pictures from the day.



Our Wonderful (St.Giles) Church Wardens

On Sunday, January 31st, 2020, the wonders of the Internet and 'Zoom' allowed Rev'd Josh, and some congregation members to hold a short, but very important on-line Service, which finally allowed Christine Bailey and David Wildman to retire as St.Giles Church Wardens, and handover to our new Wardens, Gillian Elks and Dennis Brammer.

Thank you Chris & David

Chris and David were elected in April 2013 and have looked after us through 3 Incumbents, 2 Interregnums, 1 Churchyard project, 1 replacement heating system, and 1 Pandemic, just to list a few of the memorable times during their very extended term of office. We wish them both a very long and happy 'retirement'.

1. David & Christine present Rev Steven Lee and his wife Sally with farewell gifts - May 18th, 2014.
2. The Wardens thank Rev Rob Daborn and his wife Sue at their final Service - September 30th, 2018.
3. Our Curate, Rev Josh Penduck is announced as our next Rector - June 23rd, 2019.



Continued on the next page...

Meet the (New) St.Giles Church Wardens

Gillian Elks

My earliest recollections of church life were of sitting in little wooden chairs (complete with arms) in a downstairs room of Penkhull Methodist Church and also sitting in the balcony of Temple Methodist Street Church with my Dad to listen to the choir as my Mum sang with them.



Gillian & David Elks

Penkhull Methodist Church had a very full programme of events: Sunday School Anniversary, Eisteddfods which consisted of hand writing, reciting poetry, baking and knitting the carnival queen and of course the Penkhull Pantomime.

From the age of seven to eighteen I attended to St Dominic's School at Hartshill which of course was a catholic school. This gave me an insight into another way of worship. Whilst the Catholics learnt their catechism I was given a psalm to learn, some of which I can recite.

We moved from Penkhull when I was nine years old and we transferred our membership to the Westlands Methodist Church, now called St Peter's Methodist Church, working my way through Sunday School, being part in the preaching group which went to other churches in the circuit to take the services. As a Steward at St Peter's for eight years I gained a good grasp of helping to run a church. I also had the dubious privilege of interviewing for a new minister. I had the advantage of working closely with St Andrew's in an ecumenical project for many years, so although not from an Anglican background I had an insight to the workings of an Anglican Church. All through my church life music has played an important role. Being a member of the junior and then adult choir, the ecumenical Christmas choir with St Andrews and also taking part in some of the Roger Jones' musicals. Hymns to me are very much part of worship.

I should also mention that I have been married to

David for 45 years (being a good Methodist we met in the Dick Turpin Pub) we have two lovely boys Jonathan and Alexander, two daughters-in-law with whom I have a good relationship and three lovely grandsons.

I have to blame my younger son Alexander for me arriving at St Giles, he was asked to join the music group at St Giles with his guitar and as a good parent I came to support him, at the all age worship. I found the people at St Giles very friendly, I was made very welcome by the congregation, even though at first no one knew I was Alexander's mother. I had attended St Peters Methodist Church for fifty years so to leave was a very big decision and not one taken lightly. I have managed for the last six years to hover on the church fringe, arranging the odd flower and being part of the church choir. However, Josh had other ideas and asked if I would attend a meeting with him. In my ignorance I thought, as I was due to retire in June as a legal secretary, that he wanted a "bit of typing" doing.

Having accepted the challenge of church Warden I hope that I am able to serve diligently, I will not always get it right, but I will always do my best.

Gillian

Dennis Brammer

My earliest memory of hearing about God and Jesus was when I was about four years old. I remember my mum speaking to close neighbours who had young children asking if they were happy for their child to join us for a Sunday morning story time reading from Christian books for children.



Dennis & Marilyn Brammer

A couple of years later together with my older brother and sister we were taken to St Michael's church in Chell - a long walk for such short legs - where we attended

Continued on the next page...

Meet the (New) St.Giles Wardens - continued

Sunday school. It was well attended, consisting of a room for tiny ones and a much larger room for older children where there were four classes for girls and four classes for boys, all in the same room.

(The Sunday school was held in a wooden building next to the church, which was the original church. It was later replaced by a brick building and a car park was constructed on the ground of the original wooden church)

When I was ten years old we moved from Mill Hill to Chell, *(better on my little legs but not for that reason)*, and I changed to Chell school where I first saw Marilyn. I said, to myself, 'I am going to marry her'. She didn't notice me, yet! I became aware that many of the children at school did not attend Sunday school and for years I assumed they must attend other Sunday schools.

All of my memories of Sunday school are very happy memories and learning about Jesus made its lasting mark on me. We had great evenings watching films such as Pilgrims Progress. Great evenings of entertainment were put on by the adults and wonderful Christmas parties were had with films and games.

I felt so much at home there that as a boy I became a member of the church choir. A few years later I stopped attending church for a short time until the Sunday school superintendent, a wonderful man, visited our home. The purpose of his visit was to say 'hello' to my mum (who he knew) and to do Christ's work. Following his visit I realised what was missing in my life and I returned to the church.

Marilyn and I had been seeing one another since we were fourteen years old. *She noticed me*, and we both became Sunday school teachers at eighteen years old. Marilyn and I attended confirmation classes and were confirmed together. We did a 'Kate and William', having a short time apart - but it was not good. We were like magnets and were drawn back together.

At twenty years old we married in St Michael's

church and a few years later both of our children were Christened in that church.

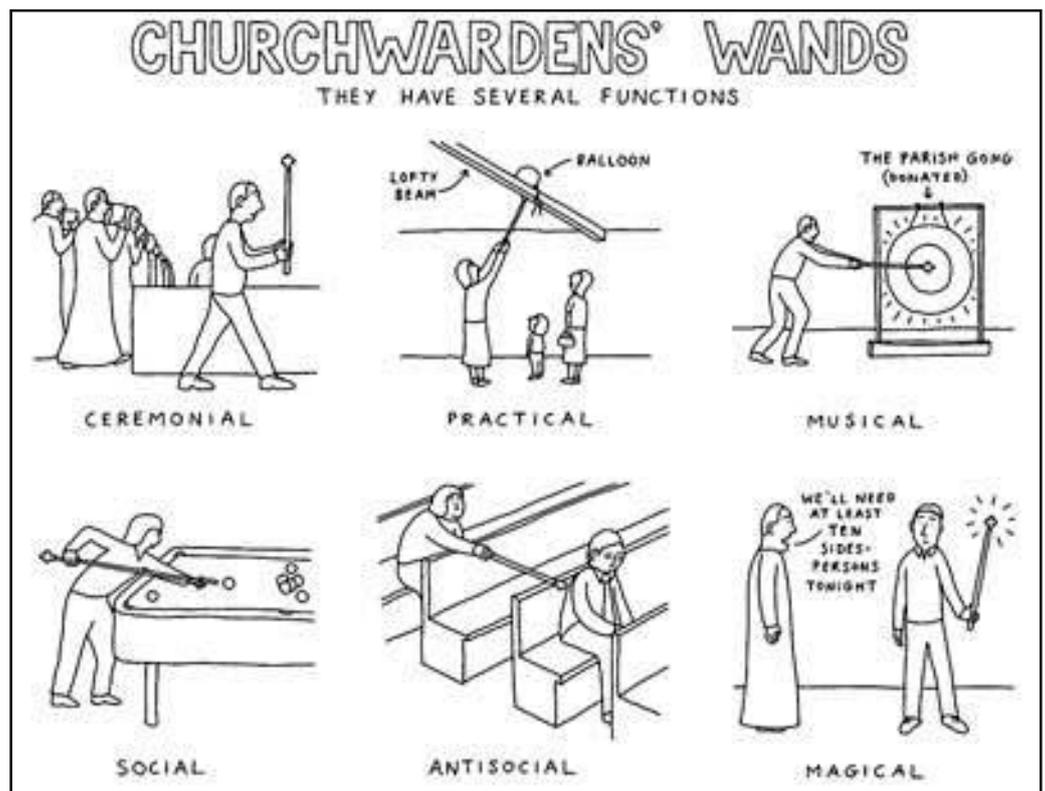
Marilyn's early years were spent in Pits Hill and together with her parents attended the Methodist church near their home. Having moved to Chell, just up the hill, I suggested that they may wish to try St Michael's church, which they did, and remained there where eventually the funerals of both were conducted.

I cannot say that there was a moment of conversion as my mum's introduction to Christ has always been there. I have had periods away from the church but always felt empty and alone. I lived and worked in London for five years seeing my family when I could. I was very lonely at that time and relied on prayer to get by. I would say that this period in my life affected me the most and I remained with the church thereafter.

Marilyn and I have attended other churches in the local area and, having moved house close to St Giles, we have settled there. No sooner were we in the door, I took the role of Christmas Tree Festival co Ordinator. I must have done OK as Rev Josh tested the water and asked if I could help the wardens. Watch out when Rev Josh asks if you could help, before you know it you will be feeding the multitude!

I hope to learn and flourish as a warden doing my best for the church and members. We are happy to be in St Giles knowing so many genuine lovely people. Go away Covid, we miss each other.

Shalom, Dennis



Let's clap for Mothers!



As we celebrate 'Mothering Sunday' on March 14th, the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers all that mothers have done for us this past year.

As Mother's Day approaches, let's hear it for all the mothers who have been on the frontline of helping our country survive the Covid pandemic!

Just as we've clapped on our doorsteps for the NHS and other heroes, let's applaud all that mothers have done – often balancing home and employment – during these long lockdown months.

Research shows that mums have carried out most of the home schooling and household tasks – with many also holding down important frontline roles in the NHS and other essential services.

Women spent more than twice as much time as men on their children's home schooling and development during the lockdown, according to a study by University College London. It measured how parents responded while schools and nurseries were closed to most families.

The survey, reported by the Guardian newspaper, found that women across several age groups took the major share of childcare and home schooling. Those with primary school-aged children "were considerably more likely" to have given up working than fathers with children of the same age.

The pressure on families was further increased as many grandparents and other carers were unable to help. Family and friendship networks were put under strain with contacts restricted to online Zoom or Facetime calls that are often difficult with younger children.

Launching a Children's Society report into children's welfare during the lockdown, chief executive Mark Russell said: "We are living in unprecedented times. Months of national lockdown, only small numbers of children in school, and many families experiencing real crisis. Coronavirus has impacted every area of our lives and The Children's Society has been deeply concerned about the impact of this crisis on children, especially the most disadvantaged."

He added: "Our survey found a higher proportion of young people experiencing low well-being than we are used to seeing. Whilst we know that most children's well-being will 'bounce-back', there will be some who do not."

Mothers are at the frontline of helping our children cope with – and then recover from – the effects of the Covid pandemic and the extended lockdowns.

Many working mothers lost their jobs because of the pandemic, and families will be hard-pressed to make up for the income lost. Food bank provider, the Trussell Trust has warned churches to prepare for a 'tidal wave' of poverty and to be ready to help their local communities.

This Mother's Day, daffodils and chocolate may seem very thin reward for the major contribution of mums across our nation.

In normal times, they have a challenging and demanding job to do. Through the pandemic, they have risen to the challenges and sought to ensure children thrive despite the lockdowns.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let's recognise the amazing efforts made by mothers in the home with their children.

Let's also celebrate the vital roles many also play – as do those without children – in the NHS, in education, in the government and civil service, in keeping vital supplies flowing – and in our pulpits and across our churches.

In praise of Mothers....

◆A mother's love endures through all. - *Washington Irving* ◆Life doesn't come with a manual. It comes with a mother. - *Anon* ◆Life began with waking up and loving my mother's face. - *George Eliot* ◆Mothers are like buttons. They hold everything together. – *Anon*

ZOOM IN!

During 'Lockdown', the Internet has become the communication system for Church meetings, Services, and now a quiz.

The software is FREE to download and available for Windows and Apple computers. If you want some help with it, (don't be shy), Rev Josh & Penny can send you some useful guides.



DON'T MISS OUT - ZOOM IN!



- ◆All those who have lost loved ones during the Covid outbreak.
- ◆All those working in surgeries and vaccination centres across the world.
- ◆All those waiting for operations or treatment.
- ◆All those worried about having the vaccines.

Take-a-Break Answers

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

APRIL'S PARISH NEWS

Please email all items to the Editor: -
pitstowm@aol.com

Closing date:
Tuesday, March 16th.

PLEASE NOTE:
Services and other items in this issue may be subject to change if the Covid regulations are changed.



Newcastle News

Castle House tel: 01782 717717

www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/news

●**TRENTHAM** - After 30 years, St.Modwen are putting Trentham Gardens and the shopping village up for sale. It wants to off-load the estate to an organisation which can 'continue to invest in the business' and 'support its ongoing success'.

●**HOUSING** - Building has started on the former Ashfields Grange and Hall Street flats site in Newcastle. Aspire Housing is building 75 one-bed and 14 two-bed apartments as part of its flagship Holborn Place development, which is costing £14m. The development includes some 'affordable rent' flats for the over-55s. It is hoped that residents will be able to move by autumn 2022.

●**LAST DANCE** - The Zanzibar nightclub, (formerly the Crystal ballroom) has been demolished. The site, which has been vacant for 16 years, is to be transformed by the Council and Aspire Housing into a mixture of housing and small business use.

●**SMELLS** - The Borough is spending £50,000 on experts to investigate whether or not bad smells are coming from Walleys Quarry landfill site in Silverdale. It follows 222 complaints in the first 18 days of January. Previous air sample tests have produced results below the relevant air quality directives. In response to the rising number of complaints, (including letters from school children to the Prime Minister), the Environment Agency has recently announced that it will undertake a new air quality monitoring exercise around Walleys Quarry landfill site.

●**NEW HOTEL** - Twenty jobs have been created at the new 150 bed Marriott Courtyard hotel recently opened on the Keele University campus. It includes a restaurant, bar, meeting rooms and a fitness centre. It will fully open when Covid restrictions allow.

●**MINERS** - A national memorial paying tribute to miners will be built at the National Memorial Arboretum as the Chase Arts for Public Spaces (Chaps) said that it had raised over £90,000 towards its £100,000 target. Sculptor Andy de Comyn is creating the 2m high by 5m long monument out of Derbyshire stone, which will depict the history of mining, including recognising the colliers' contribution to World War One and World War Two.

●**NON-STUDENTS** - Abode Residences have applied to the council for permission to allow non-students to live in the new partially completed 'One London Road' complex on the former A34 site of Bristol Street Motors. The original 5 block scheme contained 499 apartments for students but the Covid pandemic has meant that 'take-up' has been very low and as Abode have now completed two blocks, they wish to fill them with non-students until August 2022.

Item sources include the Newcastle Borough web-site.



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