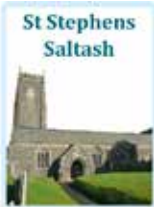
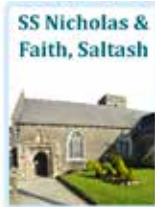
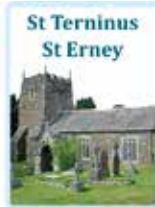
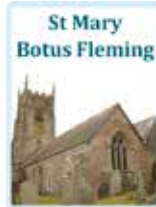


Saltash Area Newsletter

April 2020



DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM – GROWING THE CHURCH
www.saltashteamministry.org



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What to say when something like Coronavirus has affected not only our tiny part of the world, but the whole planet? Our world, and life, probably won't every be the same again. Our Reader – Rick Cowdery – sent me this article by Dave Luck.

What Does Faith in a Coronavirus Pandemic Look Like?

So it's my day off – my thinking and writing day – and I'm really not getting very much done. The irony is that I'm working on the idea of a dystopian model – I should be inspired!

That's because right now it feels like coronavirus has taken over the world, the eye of the storm being people getting ill and the worries we have about our vulnerable loved ones.

We had a suspected case in a friend's family last weekend and one of the team I manage

and someone in my church group both seem to have picked it up.

The next circle out is the impact on society. What it will mean in our workplaces and communities, and what will the longer-term effect be on healthcare and the economy? When it's over, will the bottom have fallen out of the economy and will there be scores of business failures?

The wider cumulative effect is feeling like a drain on our attention that makes it nigh on impossible to focus on anything else. I'm not living in fear, I'm just entirely distracted. It feels like normal

worrying. Worrying is, frankly, a very natural reaction and not one people should then be punishing themselves over. I for one am reassured that our government's response appears to be science-

led unlike America's, which appears to be led by whatever comes off the top of Donald Trump's very silly head. I suggest we all keep following the advice we're getting.

People Matter

Times like this show what matters and that's people, not stuff, events, or even football. It's heartening to hear the many

tales of people looking out for their neighbours. I hope a positive side effect of all this is more of this viral neighbourliness.

We are Made to Need Each Other

This is one of the things I say like a scratched record, but it's true. Just as



life has been placed on hold. Flippin' 'eck, I can't even go and watch local non-league football!

So here are a few thoughts in dealing with the blur of it all.

It's Not Just You

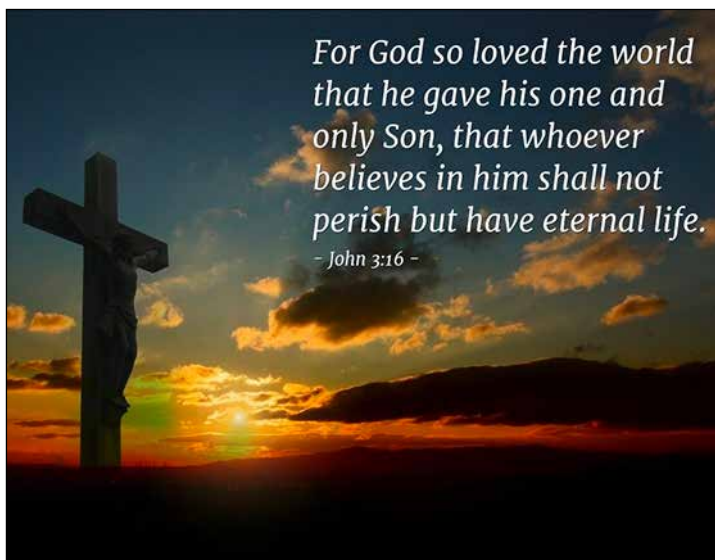
One of the side effects of all this is people worrying that they are

we need to squash the voice that says we are silly if we worry, we also need to distrust our instinct to sort things out ourselves. Let's be honest we're often more comfortable offering help than receiving it, but at times like this we are all likely to need some help at some point. We need to learn that's not just okay, it's normal and that the tendency of society to make us more and more independent is a big pile of pap. More specifically and with reference to panic buying, when we come together we always find there is enough to go round.

that is bad for us – specifically people spewing negative stuff on social media. There are always critics and conspiracists sitting safely behind their keyboards. What we need is stuff that will help; they won't offer that. Ignore them.

spread can be limited. But we know through history that outbreaks like this are a part of our world.

We are privileged to live in a time of such advanced healthcare, yet we know that sickness and death will visit us all, whether we like it or not.



Faith is knowing that God offers to be with us through it all, through uncertainty and in suffering. In all of it, God wants to steady our hearts and turn our focus outwards to others who we can stand with.

One of the things that helps me in a time of anxiety is to tell myself that it will pass; it will not be forever.

As I do that, I'm reminded of the situations that have passed, the times God has seen me through.

We Need to do Healthy Things

Okay so I may have stockpiled cider and crème eggs at the weekend but despite anticipating the cancellation of the Sheffield half marathon, I still got a run in. There are things we know are good for us that we need to keep doing, as simple as turning off the 24-hour news and going for a walk round the block. Conversely, we need to guard against the stuff

We Need to Keep the Faith

What is faith at a time like this? Is it televangelists offering to send healing through your TV? Is it denial that coronavirus is a thing that can affect us? Faith for me, in times like this, is the belief that this is not all there is, even when it feels like it. We pray that through good practice and scientific breakthroughs, the

Sometimes the outcome is a victory, sometimes it's survival.

Right now, this sucks but coronavirus will not have the final word.

Dave Luck is the author of 'What Happens Now? A Journey Through Unimaginable Loss', and blogs weekly on <http://www.daveluckwrites.co.uk>. Follow him on Twitter @dluckwrite or on Facebook at the 'Daveluckwrites' page.

I hope that this article gives you food for thought. Keep the faith. Keep praying and as Romans 8:31 says: **What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**

It will soon be Easter but this year will be very different from the Easters that we have celebrated in the past. However, the message that Easter gives to each of us is the same message – a message of hope. Roman's 5: 8 says: **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** And John 3:16 says: **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

I wish everyone a truly blessed Easter.

Every blessing,
Yours in Christ,
Cathy

Letter from the Archbishops

Below is an extract from a letter sent to all
Clergy From the Archbishops and Bishops
of the Church of England on 24 March

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last night, it is imperative that for the health of the nation and in order for the National Health Service itself to manage the increase in those requiring medical help, the Church of England strictly observes the new guidelines on staying at home and only making journeys that are absolutely necessary, such as shopping for essential items and to take daily exercise.

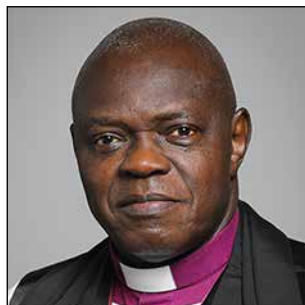
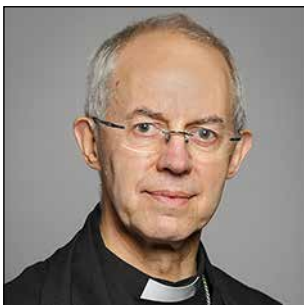
Our church buildings must now be closed not only for public worship, but for private prayer as well and this includes the priest or lay person offering prayer in church on their own. We must take a lead in showing our communities how we must behave in order to slow down the spread of the Coronavirus.

We must also do all that we can to provide resources and support for those who are isolated, fearful and vulnerable. But we have to do this from our homes.

A number of national online resources (<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>) including weekly streamed services and daily audio, as well as additional worship provision on the BBC are there to help us, and more are on their way. Please do all that you can to point people to this content. It is also imperative that as the Church of Jesus Christ, called to offer hope and light in the darkness of this world's ills, we maintain a praying presence for our community, though from today onwards this must happen from our hearts and from our homes.

With every blessing,

+Justin Cantuar +Sentamu Eboracensis



Prayers to help us at this time



Compassionate God,
as you know each star you have created,
so you know the secrets of every heart;
in your loving mercy bring to your table
all who are fearful and broken,
all who are wounded and needy,
that our hungers may be satisfied
in the city of your peace;
through Christ who is our peace. (Ps147)

Come, creator Spirit, source of life;
sustain us when our hearts are heavy
and our wells have run dry,
for you are the Father's gift,
with him who is our living water,
Jesus Christ our Lord. (end Ps42)

In the darkness of unknowing,
when your love seems absent,
draw near to us, O God,
in Christ forsaken,
in Christ risen,
our Redeemer and our Lord. (end Ps44)

Recent Events

Mothers' Union

Chairman Sandra opened the meeting by lighting the Mothers' Union Candle and member Jill said the prayers, which included prayers for those affected by the coronavirus. It was lovely to see so many members, especially after the awful winter we have had.

Sandra introduced the guest speaker Mr Ken Martin from the 'Mabbott Trust'. Although the Trust has been going for many years, it has not always been known by this name. Over the years it has amalgamated with several other Trusts. It also has a connection with our church. The Rev'd Richard Maynard and Rev'd Bob Monro were Trustees back in the early 2000s, and in 2006 Ken joined the committee. Then Peter Skinnard took over from the Rev'd Guest (also a Trustee) and in 2008, five charities joined together and changed the name to 'Mabbott Trust'. The Trustees are currently the Rev'd Cathy Sigrist, two councillors and two members of the community. The committee meets three times a year. Ken explained the different ways in which the money is distributed.

Sandra thanked Ken for his talk and the insight into the Trust in the church that many were unaware of.

The welcome tea and the cake, made by member Pauline, were enjoyed, with lots of chatter before everybody departed for home.



100+ congregations on Sundays. They had a diverse congregation from millionaires to people involved in show business to council tenants. The Royal Ballet School was in one of the parishes and they were also active members of the church. Gordon was kept busy with youth clubs, choirs and fund raising.

After three years he decided to move on and became Minister of the Parish Church in South Godstone, Surrey. Many of his congregation commuted weekdays to London, Croydon and where there was suitable employment. There was a Church School and during his three years in residence, he felt he gained a wealth of experience.

His next move was to Devonport, Plymouth where his parishes included Stoke. His young family enjoyed living in a large vicarage with views of the boats in the harbour. He later moved to a smaller residence, but served his churches for 30 years until retirement. He is, of course, still an active member of Saltash Churches, where he takes regular services and sings in St Nicholas choir.

During his ministry he has spent a great deal of time fundraising and repairing churches. He has served as chaplain to the Lord Mayor. There was strong association with the Royal Navy, local schools, colleges and youth activities in his parishes.

Rev Gordon was a founder member of the committee that planned St Luke's Hospice. His main focus in church life was on worship, and it had never been boring.

Men of St Stephens and Friends



For our March meeting we were delighted to welcome Rev'd Gordon Cryer to tell us about his life in Ministry.

Rev'd Gordon was born in Ilford, Essex and had two brothers and

one sister. His parents and his wider family attended St Andrews Church, Ilford which had a large congregation. Gordon was an active member of the choir and of clubs in this family-orientated church. As he grew up he had a calling to become a minister; and in 1964 was ordained at Southwark Cathedral, London.

He then started as a Deacon in a group of four churches at Mortlake and East Sheen, on the edge of Richmond Park. These were large churches with



Our MOSSAF continues to grow and we were joined by another two new members this month meaning we have doubled in size in the year since our first meeting.

Our Steak Night in April is now postponed with a view to rearranging once normality returns. All other meetings are also now up in the air as we all take things a day at a time.

Recent Events continued

St Stephen's Fundraising Team

Having been told that our Church Kitchen area could do with some new white mugs, our Fundraising Team jumped into action and were delighted to supply 36 new stackable ones from the money we raised last year. We still have £600 to help our Church so any other suggestions welcome.



Arland Burns from the fundraising team and Pat Lissenden from our Social Committee.

Silent Auction in March

Many thanks to all who entered our Silent Auction also to our newsletter editor, Ruth, who created online bidding via our Church Website which proved very popular. The eight lots raised a total of £153.17. We are currently putting together another silent auction so check out next month's newsletter.

Winner of the Compton Acres lot was Lydia Butler and her boyfriend Charlie. Lydia says, 'We're looking forward to visiting Compton Acres when it's back open and I send my love and best wishes, particularly in these challenging times to everyone in Saltash.'



St Stephen's Spuds and Puds Lunch

What a fantastic time we had at our recent Spuds and Puds lunch. Thank you to all who supported our event and those who donated those scrumptious Puds.

The event raised £200.10.

Spring Carol



When loud by landside streamlets gush,
And clear in the greenwood quires the thrush,
With sun on the meadows
And songs in the shadows
Comes again to me
The gift of the tongues of the lea,
The gift of the tongues of meadows.

Straightway my olden heart returns
And dances with the dancing burns;
It sings with the sparrows;
To the rain and the (grimy) barrows
Sings my heart aloud -
To the silver-bellied cloud,
To the silver rainy arrows.

It bears the song of the skylark down,
And it hears the singing of the town;
And youth on the highways
And lovers in byways
Follows and sees:
And hearkens the song of the leas
And sings the songs of the highways.

So when the earth is alive with gods,
And the lusty ploughman breaks the sod,
And the grass sings in the meadows,
And the flowers smile in the shadows,
Sits my heart at ease,
Hearing the song of the leas,
Singing the songs of the meadows.

by Robert Louis Stevenson

10 FACTS ABOUT EASTER

1. Easter was declared a moveable feast by early Christians with Easter Sunday on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox...
2. ...this was the Paschal Full Moon which means the feast may fall between 21 March and 25 April. In the early Church it was the occasion when those preparing for Baptism were Baptised and received Communion.
3. In the UK, the Easter Act 1928 set out to fix the date of Easter but has never been enforced, it received the Royal Assent on 3 May 1928.
4. The earliest known reference to Easter eggs was in the 16th century when the term referred to blown or hard-boiled eggs with decorations.
5. The UK's first chocolate egg was produced in 1873 by Fry's of Bristol.
6. Chocolate sales at Easter in the UK account for 10 per cent of the annual total.
7. The world's most expensive edible Easter egg was made by La Maison du Chocolat in 2006. It had over a hundred half-carat diamonds encrusted into the shell and cost £50,000!
8. Eggs have long been associated with the spring equinox, having been seen as a symbol of life since the time of the ancient Egyptians and Persians.
9. The traditional decorative 'crocodile' design was originally designed to disguise minor imperfections that would otherwise be obvious on a smooth chocolate shell.
10. The word 'Easter' occurs only once in the King James Bible (Acts 12:4). Elsewhere in the King James version, the word 'Passover' is used.



Our latest needs are:

- UHT fruit juice and milk
- Basic food (but NOT soup)
- Cleaning products

Although our churches are no longer open, we can still donate food at Waitrose or the Co-op and donate money via their website:

<https://saltash.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

If you need help from the foodbank the quickest way to reach them is by telephone. They can then direct you to the most appropriate agency to give you a foodbank voucher.

☎ 0800 328 2124

CANCELLED

As I'm sure you're aware, currently our churches are shut and all events have been postponed. When the crisis is over, events will be rescheduled.

Meanwhile there are digital resources we can access, some listed at saltashteamministry.org and more at churchofengland.org



Please email articles to:
newsletter@saltashteamministry.org
Deadline – 20 April.