



St Peter's Parish

e-newsletter

22nd April 2020

www.stpeterrealing.org.uk

The Vicar's Letter

There is lots of talk about 'what next?', what will life be like after lockdown, after COVID19? A question brought into stark reality because of the unusualness of where we are now. The first couple of weeks were ok. Holidays were coming anyway, we just effectively broke up early; admittedly rather dramatically, under intense circumstances and under drastic measures. Easter came and in secular terms went. It was still holiday for a week and then Monday morning arrived. Where do we go from here?

We now must put our feet on solid ground and do some serious thinking. One of those areas we must think seriously about is finance. Our finances for the next couple of months are shot to pieces. Our main source of income, the church hall, has already been closed for a month. It will be closed for at least a further month and we are guessing at least until August. We have also lost our regular cash collection, normally taken on Sundays as part of the Parish Mass.

To save money we have furloughed our Administrator, which has put whatever administration duties we may still need to carry out onto me. We have cut our Common Fund payments by half, we will owe nearly £15k by the end of the summer, and we are tightening our belts as best we can. We are not starting any capital ventures, so although we are continuing to fundraise for the Lady Chapel project we won't be doing any work. We started this financial year with a £6k deficit. We are not in a good financial position.

I know you hate me saying this, but we do need your help. We were going to launch a Stewardship Programme at the APCM which should have been this coming Sunday. As we have been closed down, we can't. I have two proposals to put to you:

1. If you normally give your collection by cash in the collection plate would you please consider taking out a Standing Order or at least make your regular payment by BACS transfer through your bank? Failing all that pop your offering in an envelope and pop it through the vicarage door. I can then pass it on for banking.

2. Please consider increasing your offering. I know many of you are on fixed incomes and your budgets are tight. We also know you are as generous as you can be. We are still not covering our costs, as shown by our over reliance on the income from the church hall. I am making the rather difficult request that you give sacrificially. Here is where the vicar should pull out all the Biblical references to encourage sacrificial giving and remind us of the cross and the empty tomb of Easter. But I know you know that.

3. If you can do nothing else please pray for our parish. It is the most important thing to do. Pray that we continue to do the will of God and are guided by the Holy Spirit that we may continue to build up His Kingdom and proclaim His love into our community.

If you can help financially the banking details you require are:

Bank: HSBC

Account: 60377082

Sort Code: 40 11 58

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Just so you know the Diocese is suspending any new appointments for now, the clergy have agreed a 0% increase in stipends this year and the Diocese is looking to make more cuts and furlough staff where possible. So please, prayerfully consider how you might be able to help.

On a jollier note, as I said in my email at the beginning of the week, welcome to baby Peter Spagnolo, the newest member of St Peters, born on the afternoon of Easter Sunday. Daniel and Valentina are delighted, everyone is now home and settling into this new family life. Congratulations from everyone at St Peter's. and here is a little photo:



St Peters Pastoral Assistance Programme.

Members have volunteered to shop, chat on the phone or collect prescriptions. Margaret Joachim is co-ordinating this and if you'd like to help, if you know someone who could do with some help or indeed if you yourself need help then get in touch. The phone number to use is 07595 911178.

We have suggested you might like to contact your neighbours, if you haven't already, and may be wondering what you can say. Here are some words you might find helpful. Pop them on a card or a notelet and pass it through their doors. Better still, if you can, send an email:

Dear Friend,

As the UK faces the impact of coronavirus, St Peter's has set up a support network for people in our congregation and others in the parish, so that we can shop, collect medicine, run errands or provide a listening ear for each other, especially if whole households will need to self-isolate.

*If you need anything, please feel free to contact us on the number below. It could be to buy and drop off some shopping that you need, or post a letter, or simply for a friendly chat on the phone. We can leave shopping** on your front doorstep and ring you to let you know it's arrived. It's no trouble at all.*

If people are already helping you, that's splendid. We are particularly concerned to contact and help people who are alone and don't already have friends or family to help them – especially if they are also elderly and less likely to use websites or social media. So please tell your neighbours about this, and anyone else that you think would find it helpful.

*** By the way – we can't guarantee to find everything you might want in the shops just at the moment, but we'll do our best*

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Please also note the new Ealing Borough website: <https://ealingtogether.org/> Loads of information help and advice is there.

Finding your Way round your Bible: History (2)

Last week's visit to our Bible bookshop saw us spending much time on battlefields and in the company of some remarkable men and women wrestling as "Judges" with the back-sliding children of Israel. This week we move from Military History to the Royalty section.

At the end of Judges, the dissatisfied new settlers are beginning to look around for earthly inspiration and leadership. The Canaanites have kings to lead them and fight for and with them. Israel wants a king.

The next sections of our Bible bookshop explains how they got one, what went wrong, how they got a better one, how that went wrong, how it looked ok for a bit and then went catastrophically wrong.

As mentioned before, the key focus for the writers of these books is to show God at work. The people are significant chiefly in how their lives reveal God's purpose and plan, and yet.... That "and yet" is because we are about to meet one of the people in the Bible, in Jewish history, in world history and in our faith story who leaps from the page as richly and as powerfully today as in his own days three millennia ago. For we are now entering the court of King David.

We shall spend some time in the books that follow Judges in which the coming and ruling David, and what happens next are recorded:

Ruth

1 and 2 Samuel

1 Kings

(We shall visit 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles next week.)

Ruth, a little gem of a book, is easily read through at one sitting. Ruth, the young woman and very appealing heroine, is a Canaanite (from Moab – east of what we now call the Dead Sea). Her husband, an Israelite from the tribal land of Judah (west of the Dead Sea), has died and her mother-in-law, Naomi, decides to return to her hometown of Bethlehem in Judah. Ruth chooses to faithfully follow Naomi and once in Bethlehem Ruth works for Naomi's kinsman, Boaz. Eventually, Ruth becomes Boaz's wife and bears him a son named Obed.

Here are a few glimpses of her story:

- Ruth 1 verses 1 -5,11 -18: Ruth's faithfulness
- Ruth 2 verses 1 -13: Ruth's humility
- Ruth 3 verses 1- 15: Ruth's daring
- Ruth 4 verses 13 -17: Ruth's reward
- Matthew 1 verses 5 -6: Ruth's legacy

"Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David" so runs the genealogy of Jesus that opens Matthew's Gospel. The book of Ruth is written many years after the events it recounts to honour the ancestry of a great and beloved king and leader. Ruth, Boaz, Obed, Jesse and the little town of Bethlehem in Judah (Judea) become an intrinsic part of this story – and ours.

But this is to run before we can walk. We must now see the context David emerges from. Samuel is one of the last Judges of Israel and he becomes God's mouthpiece in dealing with his wayward people, and his kingmaker.

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Finding David

- 1 Samuel 1: Hannah and Eli and the birth of Samuel
- 1 Samuel 3: The calling of Samuel
- 1 Samuel 8 verses 10 -22: Samuel gives God's warnings against kings, but the people insist.
- 1 Samuel 9 verses 1 -2, 17 – 25 and 15 verses 10,11, 24 -28: King Saul – a false start for Israel and a human tragedy.
- 1 Samuel 16 verses 1, 6 -13: Shepherd son of Jesse – David, God's choice for king.

David's Story

- 1 Samuel 16 verses 14 -23: Playing his lyre
- 1 Samuel 17: Defeating Goliath
- 1 Samuel 18 verses 1 -4: Friendship with King Saul's son Jonathan

- 2 Samuel 5 verses 1 -10: The founding of the royal city of Jerusalem. (Remember the little reference we found in Joshua 18 verse 28)
- 2 Samuel 6 verses 12 -23: Dancing before the Lord
- 2 Samuel 7 verses 1 -17: God's promise to David and his descendants.
- 2 Samuel 11 and 12: Worth reading this section right through as it describes David's fall from grace, the price he pays, his restoration and the birth of the child who will become King Solomon (he of the Wisdom and the Song).

- 2 Samuel 18 verses 18 -33: The death of David's son Absalom esp. David's timeless lament in verse 33, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son, Absalom! Would that I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

- 1 Kings 2 verses 10 -12: Death of David

After David

- 1 Kings 3 verses 16 -28: The wisdom of King Solomon
- 1 Kings 6: King Solomon's Temple
- 1 Kings 10 verses 1-13: The Visit of the Queen of Sheba
- 1 Kings 11 verses 41 -43: Death of Solomon

After the death of Solomon it all starts to fall apart, but these reigns, and especially David's, are the Golden Age of the Jewish people, and the touchstone to which their theology, their imaginations and their hopes continue to return. In these history books are also the roots of the Messianic vision of God's greater plan for all his children: Great David's greater son

The kingship of David, his tribal hometown of Bethlehem, his capital Jerusalem and his place in the ancestry of Jesus, make our familiarity with David's story one of both great interest and value. These are books with gold-leaf edged pages and fine leather covers in our bookshop.

Next week we shall see the gold starts to fade and how the problems of kingship that Samuel foretold come shockingly to pass.

Susan Peatfield

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Corona Quiz – Week 4

Margaret continues to test our little grey cells. She loved to know if anyone is doing the quiz and how indeed they are doing. Do let us know.

1. What links a seventeenth-century incident in the capital of Czechoslovakia, George Formby, an 18th-19th century imposition and Johari?
2. What were a Temanite, a Shuhite, and a Naamathite doing together, and were they successful?
3. 'What hours I spent of precious time,
What pints of ink I used to waste,
Attempting to secure a rhyme
To suit the public taste,
Until I hit upon a plan
That makes the lamest lyric scan.'
What was Harry Graham's plan?
4. Charles, Alexander, Catherine, Gatsby and Alfred were all what?
5. Which two don't (strictly speaking) belong in the following sequence, and why?
Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene, Pliocene, Plasticine, Holocene, Anthropocene.
6. What do a variety of apple, a bat, an instrument for transferring a precise quantity of liquid, a cooking pot and approximately one sixth of a time signal have in common?

Answers to Quiz 3

1. They all heard the disciples speaking in tongues at Pentecost, together with Mesopotamians, Pontians, Asians, Phrygians and Pamphylians, Egyptians, Cyrenians, and Romans.
2. Heraldry – they are all charges which may be found on coats of arms. 'Proper' indicates that they are drawn in their real colours. A pheon is a broad arrowhead, a horse-bray is a form of bridle, an arbalest is a crossbow and a rere-mouse is a bat.
3. A league – 'Half a league, half a league, half a league onward, all in the Valley of Death rode the six hundred' (Tennyson), The League of Gentlemen (TV series), the Football League which originally had twelve member clubs, Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea (Jules Verne).
4. Lady's smock, lady's mantle, lady's slipper, lady's bedstraw, a shepherd's purse (the common names for five British wild flowers).
5. I (45mm), O (32mm), OO and HO (16.5mm), TT (12mm), N (9mm) – the track widths for different scales of model railway.
6. With adequate preparation – a 7,750sq. mile area of the Western Desert in Egypt, below sea-level and covered in salt pans and salt marshes,
With reverence – the place of cremation for Hindus beside the Ganges at Varanasi,
Visit it (or keep clear) – William Cobbett's name for London in his Rural Rides,
Drink it – a brand of beer,
Catch it in your sails – a breath of wind, or fix a hook into it – a type of knot.

Clap for our Carers: Thursday 23rd April at 8pm <https://clapfourcarers.co.uk/>. Bang those saucepans!

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Worship update.

Zoom continues to go well. Thank you to Choir McAllister for their leading of the singing, Linda for leading us in prayer, to Harold as leader of our worship and Mark as provider of the music. Thank you too for our readers and Margaret's deft handling of the controls. Some of you suffered from feedback and interference. Apologies but I suspect this is a result of signals traveling through several systems and the varying quality of speakers and microphones. We are trying to help with this by recording the music on a piano this week. Do continue to let us know if you are struggling to Zoom. Margaret is getting very good at telephone tutorials.

This week is a little quieter.

Monday – Friday 9.30pm Compline. This continues by popular demand.

Sunday 26th: Pebbles at 9.15am led this week by Fr Adam.

Main Sunday Worship at 10am.

We continue to have minor hiccups. Fr David set up a series of Sunday worship Zooms through to Pentecost. Some of you have already accepted the invitation. This booking has now disappeared from Fr D's system. A new one has been sent out this week. Either cancel or ignore the previous. Hope that all makes sense.

STOP PRESS: We are going to try and do coffee after worship. If you'd like to try this (and there is a bit of a clash with the PCC Meeting at 11am but I am sure we can sort it), when service is finished, the Zoom Session will be left open. You can run off, get some coffee and a biscuit, and come back for a quick catch up. If this works, we'll do better next week. If you don't want to hang around that is absolutely fine, you just leave the gathering as normal.

You can download Zoom onto your device or you can call in by phone, dialling the number given in the email. You will also need to have downloaded the Daily Prayer app onto your device or find it via the Church of England website (www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer)

Alison G's music notes....

Over the last week or so I had been wandering around Youtube looking for interesting music inspired by the Easter story, then we had our Sunday Morning Prayer, with the wonderful Easter hymns, but also so many links to other music in the words of the service; here are two of them, plus a well known American Gospel number:

Two pieces by Handel, settings of texts we heard this last Sunday morning:

First 'Oh death where is thy sting?' from the Messiah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3ZQxszyB9Y>, Handel's Messiah No 49 and 50 'Oh death where is thy sting?' 'But thanks be to God' (Christopher Hogwood and the Academy of Ancient Music) The soloists look so young, but they already have glorious voices.

Then probably a less well-known piece, from his oratorio 'Israel in Egypt' 'Sing ye to the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0nMXunT3A4> Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759): Israel in Egypt (HWV 54) Monteverdichor, Wurzburg Finale Nos 35 to 39. No 39 is a setting of our text from Sunday.

It's interesting to hear a German choir singing Handel, who was born in Germany then spent most of his life in England. I think by the end the rider has definitely fallen into the sea....

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Finally, for something completely different: 'Oh Happy Day when Jesus washed my sins away' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tSyzTlJ82g> Familiar to many from 'Sister Act', and sung in very many versions by choirs large and small, this claims to be 'original'..... I listened to several versions and liked this best. (Original) (1968) Edwin Hawkins & Northern California State Youth Choir

St Peter's Book Club has just had its first Zoom meeting and welcomes new readers to join in. We have a chat about the books we have been reading and about lots of other things!

Recent books we have enjoyed and some we are just starting:

The Goldfinch and The Secret History both by Donna Tartt
Faithful Unto Death and Death in Disguise both by Caroline Graham
Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield
The Binding by Bridget Collins
Gossip from the Forest by Sarah Maitland
Out of Africa by Karen Blixen
The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama

We are meeting online again on Wednesday 20th May at 10.30am. Please let Susan - sjpeatfield@aol.com - know if you would like a link to join us and/or have any suggestions of titles you have enjoyed.

Supporting Local Business – ECC: Electric Coffee Co., Haven Green. As you've walked down to Ealing Broadway Tube Station (depending which way you go of course) you may have come across one of our independent coffee shops, The Electric Coffee Company. Of course they are closed as a shop right now but they are taking orders and making deliveries. Zoe Stumpf pointed this out to me and I thought you might find this a useful service.

I wrote to Simon, the proprietor, his reply is below. I hope you find something useful.

"Thanks for your email and thanks also for offering to list our shop.

The list of stock is below [I have a copy if you'd like me to email over: Fr D]. Only thing is that we're advertising only on our Facebook, orders being received on this email [simon@electriccoffee.co.uk]. We then send out full payment and delivery details.

We have a nice selection of wine too and of course, plenty of coffee, whole beans or ground:)

Many thanks, take care and please see our list below

Simon

I have a stock list if you would like to see it, but as Simon says, their Facebook page is a great place to discover stuff. You don't have to be on Fb to check it out. Go to Fb and type in the search "Electric Coffee Co."

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Helping the homeless: you might also like to know Thorgill Estate Agents are taking and distributing clothes and other useful items to those in need. This is what they said: Thorgills Estate Agents Collection Programme.

“Some local homeless support centres have reluctantly had to close their doors because they can’t practise safe distancing measures at the moment. Some others such as the fantastic Ealing Soup Kitchen are using volunteers to deliver food as well as distribute from their centres.

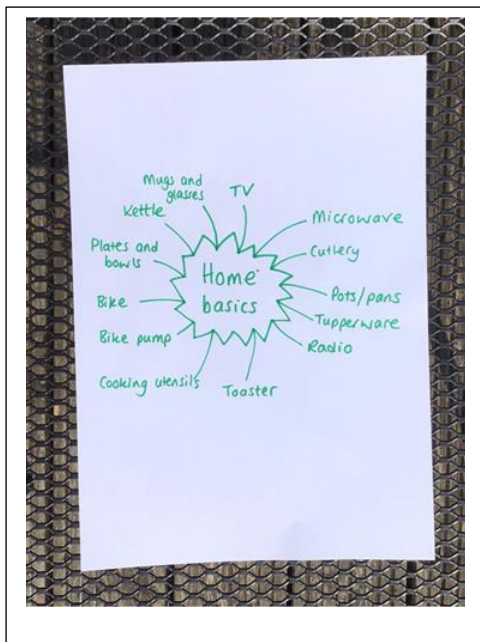
At Thorgills we are supporting an organisation based at Brentford Baptist Church Hall that provides food, essentials and support to homeless people.



How can you help? You can donate your unwanted clothes (men’s are most in demand) and basic home items that are desperately needed by people in our local area without a stable home. All you need to do is put them in a bag, send us a message and we will arrange a day to collect them from your doorstep. For details of what you can donate, check the images below.



And to clarify, used pants and socks are definitely worth donating as they are very well received!”



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Thank you for continuing to support Ealing Foodbank with food donations, we really appreciate the generosity of the public during these current circumstances. Please find our April Shopping List below:

UHT Milk - whole and semi skimmed (not skimmed please); Dried Milk; Long Life Fruit Juice & Squash - 1 litre size please; Long Grain Rice - 1kg/500g size; Mayonnaise & Ketchup; Tinned Fruit; Savoury Biscuits & Crackers; Instant Custard - tins or cartons
Tinned/Dried/Instant Potato; Jam & Peanut Butter;
We've got plenty of Pasta; Baked beans; Porridge & Cereal; Pulses

This foodbank is run in partnership with local churches, facilitated by Ealing Foodbank. Registered charity number 1156369 | Registered in England and Wales

Frank Wood writes about the Bethnal Green Memorial Service he attended this year:

On Sunday 1st March I went to the 77th anniversary of the Bethnal Green Station Tube disaster. During the war the partly finished station was used as an air raid shelter. On 3rd March an air raid siren was sounded and people filed down the stairs. Everything was orderly until people started hurrying because they mistook a new anti-aircraft battery fire for bombs dropped by German planes. They pushed down the stairs until someone fell towards the bottom and people piled on top resulting in 177 souls suffocating.

The memorial service was conducted by Father Alan Green who reminded us that even though this took place 77 years ago we should not forget what happened. We prayed for those that died, the survivors and anyone affected by the disaster. One hundred and seventy three candles were lit to remember those that died. Few of the adult survivors remain but there are still survivors who were children at the time most of them were present at the service.

It was very moving as all 173 names were read out and we could see that in many cases three generations of families were wiped out. The emergency services were represented including the Civil Defence Association, the Pearly Kings and Queens were also in attendance.

After the service the congregation moved out to the Stairway to Heaven memorial and some laid wreaths there as a short blessing was given.

Afterwards people returned to the church for refreshments with cakes donated by members of the Bethnal Green Memorial Committee. Especially nice was the bread and butter pudding and the carrot cake! [I wonder which Frank Made? Ed]

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Prayer requests:

Please pray for: Suzi; Cicely Pratt; Elaine Dunkley; Keith Win;
John Pullan; Babak Khoswroshahi.
Recently deceased: Peter Tilly; Sarah Bailey
Those we can't be with now and who weigh heavy on our hearts.
Carers and health workers; those keeping supplies lines operational
Each other and ourselves.
(if you'd like names added to this list please send them to Fr David)

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

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