



St Andrew's Church Parish of Killyman

Magazine

June 2020

Digital Edition



JESUS
The True Vine



The Rector writes

Summer is well and truly on its way. As I write this month's letter I am sitting in my study, Sunday's services have been recorded, edited and are ready for uploading onto Youtube and Facebook for you to view on Sunday morning and evening. The Sun is shining and the weather is lovely. The Farmers are cutting silage and attending their animals. People are walking or cycling along the road the Rectory is on. Looking out the window all seems so peaceful and picturesque, just as it should be.

However, we all know that this idealistic view is not the reality of what is actually going on in the world at present. There is a lot of fear, uncertainty, anxiety and stress. Everyday brings more changes, which we have to learn to adjust to. Deep within us there is a longing to return to what we once knew as 'normal'. Though I do need to ask – What is normal? Do we really, being honest, want to return to how things were before Covid-19 forced us all to stop?

There is no doubt there are things about the 'old' way that I miss. I have said before, that I miss seeing you on Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings in Church. I miss being able to go to the Parish Office everyday, go 'home' to Castledawson on my day off, having coffee or lunch or dinner in a café or restaurant. I miss being able to walk life's path with you, especially when you need me to do so. However, there are certain things that I don't miss so much, and I won't go into the details of them now.

There is one thing for sure, whatever lessons we are learning during this time, we need to take with us into the future. The things that we miss doing perhaps when restrictions allow us, we need to make time for. God blessed each of us with a life, and no matter how long or short that is, we need to cherish every moment.

Despite having been forced to slow down, there seems to be a desire in the world to speed up again, and in some way, even run ahead of ourselves. The Political Leaders and Governmental Officials are continually being asked to provide time frames as to when things can get back to 'normal'. There are always comparisons being made to other countries as to how fast or slow they are moving compared to us. Maybe, amongst other things, the Lord is trying to teach us to be more patient?

The famous preacher Charles Spurgeon wrote, "It is said 'Take care of the minutes, and the hours will take care of themselves'. This is an admirable remark and might be very seasonably recollected when we begin to be 'weary in well-doing' from the thought of having too much to do. The present moment is all we have to handle now. The past is irrecoverable; the future is uncertain. Nor is it fair to burden one moment with the weight of the next. Sufficient unto the moment is the trouble thereof. If we had to walk a hundred miles, we would still have to take but one step at a time, and this process continued would infallibly bring us to our journey's end."

Let us all wait patiently for the Lord and rely on Him to work out our next minutes, hours, days, weeks and maybe even years.

To sum this all up, we can do no more than to hear the words of Jesus, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:33-34).

Stay safe and keep praying.



A Prayer for the Parish

Heavenly Father,
pour out your Spirit upon the people of our parish
and upon those who are in positions of leadership and ministry.
Forgive us our many sins and draw us nearer to you.
Grant us a new awareness of your Presence,
a new experience of your Power, a new understanding of your Word,
and a new commitment to your Service.
Open our eyes to the opportunities you give us,
open our ears to hear your call,
open our hearts to your love that we may serve you.
Grant us faith to believe,
and strength to do your will now and always.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Parish Registers

Burials

7th May 2020 Mrs Heather Farrell

23rd May 2020 Mr James Aiken





The Church of Ireland Code of
Good Practice for Ministry with Children

Safeguarding Trust

Should you have any concerns regarding the welfare of young people in parish organisations please contact any of the Parish Panel members

Rev Mark Lennox

Telephone 028 87725099

Mr Gareth Lucas

028 87724261

Mrs Helen Courtenay

028 87724220

Or any of the following statutory agencies:

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The Deacon says his Farewells

It wouldn't surprise me at all if, when we finally reach the new Jerusalem, we are able to look back over our stories as a series of 'hinge moments'. 'Hinge moments' concern the past, present, and future; they're the moments in our lives when we look back, whether with joy or sadness, and forward, whether with excitement or fear, so that we can steer our way through the present, hopefully with faith and love.

Our stories are full of these 'hinge moments': births, starting school, career changes, moving to new houses, retirements, and so on; baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals – and ordinations, too. And, as we're all learning now, some 'hinge moments' are lived out on a global scale: atrocities, viruses, and pandemics.

The 'hinge moments' I've just described also apply to our acts of worship. Think about Holy Communion for a moment. We begin our first 'hinge moment' together: gathering. We share our stories, our sins and ills, in the next one: confession. We then hear the 'hinge moments' in God's story: Scripture readings and the sermon. We commit ourselves to God and each other, eating together: communion. And finally, we're sent out, in the power of the Spirit, to share the good news of Jesus: sending. Worship is, in a sense, a series of 'hinge moments' – from gathering to sending.

As you already know, one of the most significant 'hinge moments' in my own life occurred, during such an act of worship, towards the end of my second year in medical school. While assisting at the Parish Communion, I had a sense of my own identity as someone who is loved and invited by God. Coupled with that was a strong sense that God was calling me to share the hospitality of the Holy Communion with others. For this reason, I left my studies to pursue God's call on my life. It was not an easy choice to make; I left the security of my university friends, the stability of my church community there, and the enjoyment I found in my medical studies, to pursue formation for ordination with the Church of Ireland. And, to cut a long series of 'hinge moments' short, I ended up serving and worshipping alongside you all as deacon.

As I move towards my final Sunday in St Andrew's (14th June), and the next stage of the journey of ordained ministry, I look back over the past few months in the parish, as well as the friendships I have established here, with joy – and with a hint of sadness, as I will miss you all! I also look forward to the future, particularly to the next stage of this adventure, with excitement.

The warm welcome I received from, as well as the sense of community spirit I found in, St Andrew's has made all the difference to how I was able to navigate the most recent 'hinge moments' in my life. I put that down to the Reverend Mark – I hope you know just how special he is. He is one of the kindest, and hardest working, people I know. I also put that down to each one of you, from the Select Vestry to all the extraordinary people who make St Andrew's the place it is – I hope you know just how special you all are.

So, at this 'hinge moment' in my life, there's little left for me to say, except:
'Thank you – for everything!'

The Revd Chris West.

Around the world

You in your small corner and I in mine



As we are beginning to see a slight lifting of our restrictions during this Covid-19 Pandemic, we catch up with our friends around the world to see how they are coping at this stage of the crisis.



Canada

I got to speak with my Mum today who is in a residential home. Her one to one worker has been doing a great job on keeping company with mum and doing activities with her. Our worries are reduced with having daily updates. And we are very grateful her home was one that hasn't had a Covid-19 spread.

The Government had to send in the army into 5 homes as so many staff were off sick and the residents were dying or not being cared for well. The army presented a very shameful report on the state of affairs in these homes. It seems the homes that are "for profit" are hardest hit due to lack of appropriate sanitizing and the provision of gloves, masks and gowns. So a big inquiry and possible charges of neglect of duty may transpire.

I am continuing to carry on in limbo - not going out other than for necessities. They are allowing a few more stores and parks to open - but the select few go out there to party and put everyone in jeopardy. One park had 10,000 people on Saturday and left a mess behind to clean up. So of course we'll see the Toronto Covid-19 numbers rise over the next two weeks! Add in their spreading it to others. Some people still don't get it or respect the restrictions. Certainly a new way of life.

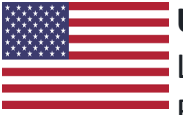
From a Canadian Rector:

My Parish in Vancouver is beginning preparations for coming out of lockdown. For three months I have been leading services online and had little communication with my congregation due to the culture in the Parish. There is a chance in a couple of weeks that we will be allowed to open the Church for Services with limited numbers. The Government regulations are telling us that to come to church people will have to book online and receive an entry ticket. Only those with tickets will be allowed to enter the building. Upon entry, each person will be asked 6 Covid-19 related questions, will have to wear facemasks and sanitize their hands. All our Church Wardens will have to wear PPE, which we have to source ourselves. Once inside, everyone will be asked to adhere to strict social distancing rules, and when someone leaves, that pew will have to be sanitized before someone else sits on it. At present, Holy Communion will not be allowed due to the sharing of the bread.



Peru From our Mission Partner – Rev. Anderson Sanchez

Things are no better here. People are still getting sick and dying. I am allowed out of my house once a week for essentials. My wife and Children are not allowed to leave their home or they will be arrested. With my work as a Minister, I am allowed to go to my Church, but only if the police on duty are sympathetic and allow me through. Please keep praying for us, as there is not enough food or water for the members of the church.



USA

Lockdown here in Kentucky is beginning to ease a little. Just this week, Restaurants and café's are allowed to open at 33% capacity. Tables are to be at least 6ft apart and outside seating is encouraged. I am not sure how my business is going to manage, but we will try.

Every State is different and doing their own thing. There is one State whose Governor has outlawed the buying of seeds – no seeds, no crops, no food!



Germany

Restrictions are gradually being loosened here. Shops are opening with very strict guidelines and extra hygiene measures. I have heard about some schools for very young people opening up for a short time too. Members from two different households are allowed to meet up here now. There was even a football match held last week, but it must have been very strange. It was inside, private, and played with social distancing in place apparently! The hard thing at the moment is that different places in this country have different rules. It is a bit like a patchwork. I am meant to be moving to finish my studies soon, but I have no clue what that will be like. It all depends on next month's developments. It is a moving target!



West Cork

Here in West Cork, we continue to stay at home and have spent a lot of time out on the garden. We have not been able to see our children and grandchildren yet as they all live in Cork city. The 5km allowance is still not very far to travel. We hope the distance will increase soon.



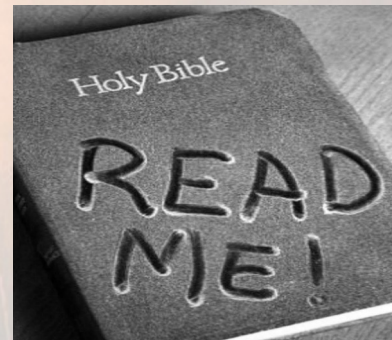
England

People are out and about a lot more and don't seem to be staying apart. I know I should feel good about Lockdown being lifted but I don't feel positive. I will go back to school full time on 8th June. Instead of teaching my Year 3 pupils I will have a class of 15 Reception pupils which seems a lot to me!

Stay safe and Keep Praying

Bible Readings for June & July 2020

June		July		August	
1	Leviticus 1	1	1 Thessalonians 3:1-5	1	Proverbs 12:6-10
2	Leviticus 2	2	1 Thessalonians 3:6-10	2	Proverbs 12:11-15
3	Leviticus 3	3	1 Thessalonians 3:11-13	3	Proverbs 12:16-20
4	Leviticus 4	4	1 Thessalonians 4:1-8	4	Proverbs 12:21-25
5	Leviticus 5	5	1 Thessalonians 4:9-12	5	Proverbs 12:26-28
6	Leviticus 6	6	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18		
7	Joshua 20:1-6	7	1 Thessalonians 5:1-5		
8	Joshua 20:7-9	8	1 Thessalonians 5:6-11		
9	Joshua 21:1-8	9	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22		
10	Joshua 21:9-19	10	1 Thessalonians 5:23-28		
11	Joshua 21:20-26	11	Proverbs 9:1-6		
12	Joshua 21:27-33	12	Proverbs 9:7-9		
13	Joshua 21:34-40	13	Proverbs 9:10-12		
14	Joshua 21:41-45	14	Proverbs 9:13-18		
15	Joshua 22:1-9	15	Proverbs 10:1-4		
16	Joshua 22:10-20	16	Proverbs 10:5-8		
17	Joshua 22:21-29	17	Proverbs 10:9-12		
18	Joshua 22:30-34	18	Proverbs 10:13-16		
19	Joshua 23:1-13	19	Proverbs 10:17-20		
20	Joshua 23:14-16	20	Proverbs 10: 21-24		
21	Joshua 24:1-13	21	Proverbs 10:25-28		
22	Joshua 24:14-18	22	Proverbs 10:29-32		
23	Joshua 24:19-28	23	Proverbs 11:1-4		
24	Joshua 24:29-33	24	Proverbs 11:5-8		
25	1 Thessalonians 1:1-7	25	Proverbs 11:9-12		
26	1 Thessalonians 1:8-10	26	Proverbs 11:13-16		
27	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	27	Proverbs 11:17-20		
28	1 Thessalonians 2:9-12	28	Proverbs 11:21-24		
29	1 Thessalonians 2:13-16	29	Proverbs 11:25-28		
30	1 Thessalonians 2:17-20	30	Proverbs 11:29-31		
		31	Proverbs 12:1-5		





Milkybar Cheesecake

By Ruth Douglas



Ingredients:

Biscuit Base	Cheesecake filling	Decoration
300 grams digestive biscuits	300grams Milkybar chocolate	150ml double cream
150 grams unsalted butter	500 grams full-fat cream cheese	2 tablespoon icing sugar
	75 grams icing sugar	50 grams melted Milkybar chocolate
	1 teaspoon vanilla extract	Milkybar buttons
	300 ml double cream	

Method:

Biscuit base

- Blitz biscuits in a food processor to a fine crumb or bash them up in a large bowl with the end of a rolling pin.
- Melt your butter till runny and mix into the biscuits.
- Press the mixture down into the bottom of an 8 inch/20cm spring-foam tin.

Cheesecake filling

- Melt the Milkybar chocolate carefully, either in the microwave or over a double boiler and leave to the side.
- Whisk together your cream cheese, icing sugar and vanilla extract until smooth.
- Add your melted Milkybar chocolate to the mix and stir to combine.
- Add in your double cream and whisk till thick or whisk the cream separately and fold through the mixture to combine.
- Spread the mixture over the biscuit base and refrigerate for 5-6 hours or overnight.

Decoration

- Once the cheesecake is set, remove from the tin carefully.
- Melt some extra milkybar chocolate and drizzle over the cheesecake.
- Whip together your double cream and icing sugar until soft peaks are formed and grate extra Milkybar onto the cheesecake.
- Add milkybar buttons to each swirl and enjoy.

What is God saying to us during Covid-19?

Many times over the past number of weeks I have been asked a number of questions about the Covid-19 pandemic and what I think the Bible says about it. I have been asked do I believe this is the end times, is the rapture about to happen, or is this the beginning of the tribulation. The answer to these is simply we don't know. We can speculate, and try to read the times, but about Jesus' return we can never predict because the Bible tells us that God the Father is the only one who knows when this is going to happen. However, I do want to share with you what I believe God may be saying to us during the Pandemic.

When completing a basic First Aid course, one of the first things we are taught is how to safely administer CPR. The purpose of CPR is to try and save the life by pumping blood around their body and getting oxygen into the blood stream. If the person receiving CPR 'pulls through' it is often followed by needing adjustments to their way of life. There is no doubt that Covid-19 has caused us all to adjust the way we live and I think, spiritually speaking, that God is wanting us to administer CPR. So as God administers CPR to the world I believe he is saying three things -

Come – The last thing that anyone wants to give up is his or her own independence, and as a result of this we have become very self-dependent. This means that we don't want to admit that we need help from anyone else. In a way, pride creeps in – subtly, often unintentionally, but there none the less. Over the last number of weeks, there has been a realisation that we do need each other and there is no shame in asking for help. With this God is also saying 'you need me!' - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). God is asking us to realise that we need His help. God also wants us to come back to Him. The more we rely on ourselves - on our own knowledge and wisdom, the further we stray from God. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), I love the imagery of the Father watching and longing for the Son to come home, with the sheer sense of relief and joy as the Father runs towards the Son to meet him coming home. As Jesus told this parable, he is explaining to us the emotions of God our Father as He is longing and watching for us to come home.

Prepare – At the beginning of the outbreak here in Northern Ireland, a panic seemed to grip the nation. People were panic buying toilet roll and pasta, and stocking up on all sorts of goods and products. I remember hearing about an electrical store, which sold all its freezers in a few hours. Had we known that this was going to happen, proper preparations would have been made, with careful planning and consideration. Cupboards and storehouses would have been stocked up long ago. When Jesus returns, there will be no time to panic. Although we do not know, and could never successfully predict when Jesus is going to return, we do need to prepare for this event. There will not be time to rush around or panic because as St. Paul writes "in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at

the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed” (1st Corinthians 15:52). As The Message translation puts it “You hear a blast to end all blasts from a trumpet, and in the time that you look up and blink your eyes—it’s over.” At this time, it will be too late, there will be no more time to prepare, the opportunity will be gone forever.

Repent – The final thing, which I think God is saying to us, is to repent. This might seem a very old word, which is no longer fashionable or relevant in today’s society. To repent of something means to be sorry of it and change direction. There is no point in saying we are sorry if we are going to continue doing what we are sorry for. For example, if you are driving down a wrong road you turn at the first opportunity, you don’t keep going. There has to be a change in mind-set. Lets think again about the Prodigal Son. The Son realised that the life he was living was pointless and that he needed to change. He knew that the way he was living did not entitle him to even be called a Son anymore. However, when repentance was expressed, Forgiveness was freely given and received (Luke 15:21-24). God wants each of us to change direction and to follow Him. This will mean a change in mind-set and a determination to no longer live our lives the way we want to, but commit to living our lives for God, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will” (Romans 12:2). We have wandered far enough away from God, it is time to repent.

I believe that God is offering us a chance to live with CPR. He wants us to Come, Prepare, and Repent. You might be wondering how to actually receive CPR. We need to believe that Jesus died for our sins on the Cross and trust that His blood can wash us clean. We need to acknowledge that we have done wrong and that we need him in our lives. We need to ask Him into our lives, and live our life for Him. This journey begins by praying and asking God to help us. If you realise that you need CPR then perhaps this prayer will help you take the step, which will begin this journey.

Lord Jesus,
I want to know you personally.
I’m sorry for going my own way instead of your way.
Thank you for dying on the cross to forgive my sin.
Please come and take first place in my life and
make me the person you want me to be.
I thank you Lord Jesus that you are now
Lord of my life and have saved me.
In your name I pray. Amen.



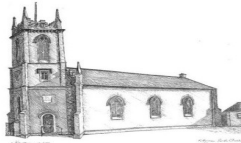
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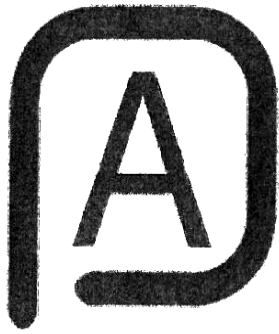
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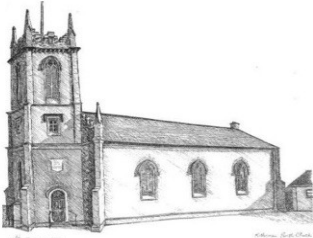
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Sunday as our
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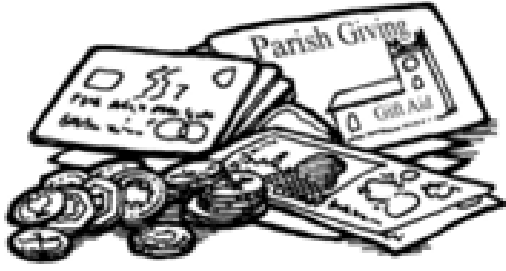
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Parish Giving

A number of people have been asking about their Free Will Offering Envelopes and the finances of the Church.

The majority of our financial support comes through what is put on the collection plate at Sunday Worship. As you know, there has been no opportunity to give this way since Sunday 15th March 2020. Our Financial obligations still have to be met, so let us encourage you to consider one of the following options.

- 1) Standing Order Giving – you can set up a Standing Order by simply completing a Standing Order Form and sending it to your Bank. Or if you use online banking you can set it up yourself. This can be cancelled at anytime by contacting your bank.**
- 2) One off Donation – Simply post a cheque to the Rectory and mark the envelope for the Treasurer.
- 3) Envelope giving – Continue to fill your Free Will Offering envelopes at home and give them at the first available opportunity.

If you are interested in Option 1 or have any questions regarding Financial Giving please contact either the Rector, Treasurer or send an email to standrewskillyman@gmail.com

Finally let me thank you for your continued financial support for the Parish. We understand that these are uncertain times, and we appreciate you giving these suggestions your prayerful consideration.

**One of the reasons for people not signing up to Standing Order is that they wouldn't want anyone to see them not putting anything on the Collection Plate on a Sunday Morning.

Before lockdown the Select Vestry had agreed to "Giving Tokens", which each Standing Order Parishioner would place on the Collection Plate instead.

During Lockdown, please be aware that no-one from our church will call at your door to collect your envelopes.

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	3	6		2	9	1		
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CLERGY & CHURCH OFFICERS:

Rector: Rev. Mark Lennox 028 8772 5099

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43 Trewmount Road
Killyman
BT71 6RL

killyman@armagh.anglican.org

Deacon Intern (until 14th June)	Rev. Christopher West	07599 812 263
Rector's Churchwarden:	Mr. E. Patterson	(028) 8772 3874
People's Churchwarden:	Mr K. Armstrong	(028) 8772 5712
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. P. Annesley	(028) 8772 4539
Hon. Asst. Treasurer:	Mrs R. Patterson	07921 063 829
Hon. Secretary:	Miss. J. Winslow	(028) 8772 5009
FWO. Secretary:	Mrs. L. Stretton	(028) 8772 5290
Magazine Distribution:	Mrs. J. Douglas	(028) 8772 4398
Missions Sec:	Miss. E. Wigton	(028) 8772 4018
Organist:	Miss H. Fowler	07702 435 061
Graveyard Warden:	Mr. T. Douglas	07813 818 145
Flower Sec:	Mrs. R. Carroll	(028) 8775 2278
Parish Administrator:	Mrs. H. Stewart	
killymancoi@outlook.com		
Parish Office number		(028) 8772 6635

Please inform the Rector if someone is ill, going into or in hospital as he doesn't always receive this information.

It would also be helpful if you could let him know if someone has been discharged from hospital.



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Lockdown Diary





the
prayer wall

Prayer Diary – June 2020

7th June - Trinity Sunday

Archbishop John

The Parishes of Kildress and Altedesert – Rev. Diane Matchett

Diocese of Derry and Raphoe – Bishop Andrew Forester

La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico

14th June – Trinity 1

Archbishop John

The Parishes of Killylea, Caledon and Brantry – Rev. Bill Atkins

Rev. Chris West on this his final Sunday as Deacon in Killyman

Diocese of Derry and Raphoe – Bishop Andrew Forester

The Anglican Church in Burma

21st June – Trinity 2

Archbishop John

Our own Parish and Rev. Mark Lennox our Rector

Diocese of Derry and Raphoe – Bishop Andrew Forester

The Anglican Church of Nigeria

28th June – Trinity 3

Archbishop John

The Parishes of Kilmore and Dobbin – Those who have the care of the Parish of the vacancy

Diocese of Derry and Raphoe – Bishop Andrew Forester

The Untied Church in North India



Stay safe and Keep Praying



Lockdown Diary

Virtual gatherings

Were in this together



Hand sanitizer

Let's get creative

#social distancing

Wash your hands



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Did you know?

250 years ago, on 11th June 1770 that English explorer Captain James Cook discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Australia when his ship ran aground on it and was severely damaged.

200 years ago, on 19th June 1820 that Joseph Banks, British naturalist, died. He was President of the Royal Society for 41 years, developed the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, into one of the world's leading botanical gardens.

150 years ago, on 9th June 1870 that Charles Dickens, British novelist, died. His books include *The Pickwick Papers*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Great Expectations* and *David Copperfield*.

100 years ago, on 11th June 1920 that the Colony of Kenya was established. It was previously known as British East Africa. It gained its independence as Kenya in 1963.

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Saturday 10.00am - 5.00pm

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Lockdown Diary

Virtual gatherings

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER



LET'S GET CREATIVE

#SOCIAL DISTANCING

Wash your HANDS



Sunday School NEWS

Each week the children of our Sunday School and further afield are benefitting from a video message at 10:15am on a Sunday morning. This goes in conjunction with an email containing follow up activities. We are delighted to receive photographs and messages from the children as they complete activities. Keep up the great work and stay safe.

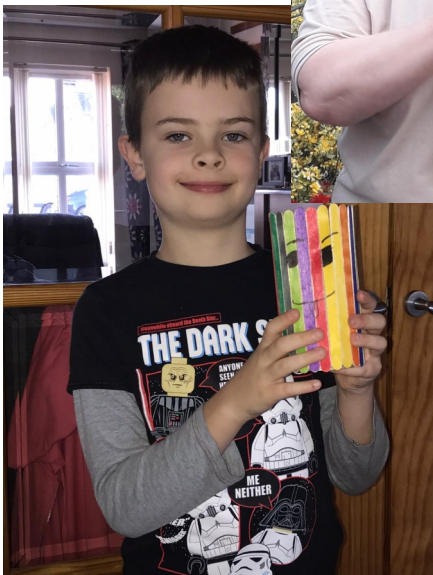
If you have a child who would like to receive these activities, please email: standrewskillyman@gmail.com



cubs

So what do Cubs get up to during lockdown?

- Do some fun badge work like the Chef's Badge, Global Awareness Badge and Home Maker's Badge
- Celebrated VE Day with a special Scout VE Badge and made a cake from WW2 ration recipe.
- Clapped for NHS and everyone involved in helping us during lockdown.
- Craft work to help keep our desks tidy.
- Sponsored Harry's bike ride - well done Harry!





Well done Cubs. Not bad work in 10 weeks!!!



Bible Study
ONLINE

TUESDAY AT 8:00PM

WANT TO JOIN US?

send a private message or email:
standrewskillyman@gmail.com



Prayer Meeting
ONLINE

WEDNESDAY AT 8:00PM

WANT TO JOIN US?

send a private message or email:
standrewskillyman@gmail.com



Join us live on Zoom for our Bible Study and Prayer meeting during the week. Send a message or an email for the link and you're good to go. It's a great way to keep in touch and have a time of fellowship together when we can't physically meet up.



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It is time to say goodbye!

The 1st September in the year Twenty Nineteen,
Was the date set by the Archbishop, and we were so keen.
Into our Church, a young man did walk,
Most of the congregation hadn't even heard him talk.

The weather was lovely, couldn't have planned better,
"He seems so young," was what some did mutter.
The Rector was delighted, he would have a side kick,
It was obvious from the start that the two of them would click.

Ahead of us lay an important task,
To nurture, encourage and no doubt have a few laughs.
The things we'd have him do, if only he knew,
He would have turned on his heels, and out the gate he would have flew!

But Rev. Chris embraced each challenge with a smile,
Even when there was hesitation for a while.
"Make him or break him," the challenge was set,
Prepare for the future was where we hoped to get.

Harvest approached and we took him to the wee hall,
On the platform he stood and preached to us all,
A good sermon that day, a true word in season,
The path to follow Jesus would always be the reason.

No sooner was it past, and the Craft Fair was at hand,
All of sudden Santa's grotto had to be planned.
For the wee assistant, this was no problem
As he looked at the Rector and said, "This is an odious handlin'!"

Christmas lights Switch on, Concerts and Carol Services,
No matter what he was asked, he was here to serve with us.
The busyness of the season didn't get him in a tizzy,
There was always something happening to keep him busy.

It wasn't too long until his head was aching,
Reading and studying, a dissertation he was writing,
Not because a deadline was ahead,
But a wee trip to Israel to see where Jesus rose from the dead!

A good time was had by all on the trip,
And in the Dead Sea, Rev. Chris took a dip,
For future ministry, a blessing to have seen,
Then back home to the fast approaching Covid-19.

The Deacon's year soon took a change of direction,
Cameras, recording and uploading was the action.
No more visits or a school assembly talk,
The wee Peugeot was parked, and instead, one daily walk.

But not to be put off, by the change of routine,
Using Zoom and Skype with the Rector many a meeting we'd convene,
We'd phone around, and help we would offer,
10 weeks in, the back of a trailer was the altar.

Flourishing and growing in faith, we watched the Rev. Christopher West
For the future we wish you all the best.

May God's blessing go with you, as you journey the next path,
And never forget, always take time to laugh.



Rev. Mark R. W. Lennox
June 2020