

St Mark's Parish Magazine

July 2021

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Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from Sunday 1 August 2021
All contributions to the editor by Friday 16 July 2021

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

First of all a very big thank you for the part you've all played in supporting others and ensuring that your family, friends, neighbours and fellow parishioners have been able to flourish in some ways during the lockdown.

As we gradually step out of lockdown, it is not as plain sailing as a tortoise emerging from its annual hibernation ritual, especially when we take into account the hovering threat of the spread of a rather virulent variant of the Covid-19 virus. It is possible that this may have caused some of us to question the loving purposes of God or even the sovereignty of God. 'Why would a loving God allow so much suffering'; 'if God is as loving as we are led to believe, then he would do something to minimise the anguish'. It is quite understandable to question things - and God during challenging times, even when we know that such challenges are transitory. I suppose it is part of what it is to be human.

I am quite encouraged by the narrative of the life of Daniel in the Bible. Of course, his colleagues were also exemplary. To me they were so grounded and confident in their relationship with God that they simply got on with living. Reading their story exudes confidence in a matter-of-fact way and makes me believe that they knew what was really important and had sourced out where, in 'Brexit' speech, their red lines were. When they were taken into exile, they were happy to use the foreign names given to them but they drew the line when it came to certain foods and drink. And even then, Daniel was charm personified and negotiated with grace.

I wonder, as post-modern Christians, what our red lines are. We've all had to 'put up' with things in life but I wonder how obliging or gracious we were about it. I think it is always important to strike the right balance. We may not want to be accused of colluding, but we surely don't want to come across as intransigent, cold and unfeeling either. I suppose St Paul may have been trying to address this when he wrote about letting our gentleness be evident to all (Philippians 4.5). And he goes on to suggest the Christian antidote to being anxious (Philippians 4.6-7).

May the God of all encouragement and comfort continue to encourage us in our walk with him and others and strengthen us in his service.

With my best wishes



On one's own

If we are on our own are we lonely?

Not Necessarily. As long as we are busy and can think positively we need not feel lonely, although some times of the day may be more difficult for us than others.

Even when we are with other people we can feel lonely, whether we are in a small gathering or in crowds such as in London. If we cannot relate happily with such company we are in, loneliness can occur.

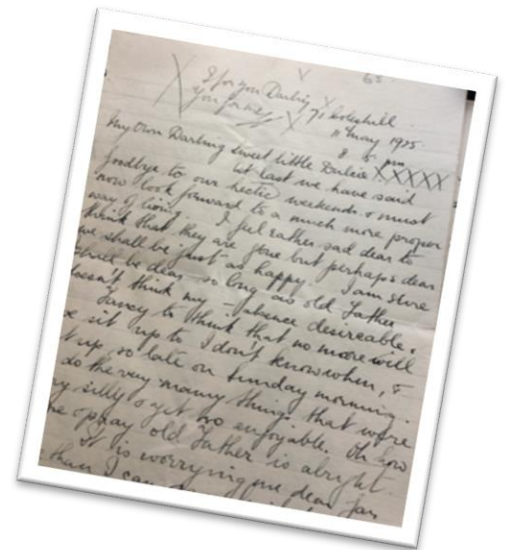
At times in life we can feel overwhelmed by too many people around us and that and noise may drown out any peace we might otherwise have and cause us to feel lonely. Silence can be a blessing and can hopefully provide an opportunity for prayer. We are told that Jesus spent 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness, apart from any humans, so he must know what loneliness can be like.

One can enjoy the company of others without saying a word. I once went on a silent Christian retreat in which none of us spoke to others from Friday evening till lunchtime on Sunday. I was not lonely and found people friendlier, thinking of other people's needs before their own. It all seemed a pity when we started to talk again as our conversations seemed so trivial.

I find living alone somewhat difficult having been with Jenny for so many years. How I value phone calls, letters, emails, texts and above all the opportunity now to meet those I love.

My mother aged 16 and my father aged 18 fell in love in 1925 and wrote to each other nearly every day until they married in 1930 and the post was delivered between Tunbridge Wells and London the following morning and I have those letters as family heirlooms.

Let us as Members of St Marks visit when that is possible, or meantime ring people up, especially those living alone, as often as we can – a few minutes on the phone can mean a lot to anyone otherwise feeling lonely.



Ian Archer

You are invited to join in the conversation on:



LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

Reigate Deanery
5-week course
Starting September 2021

Visit: www.reigatedeanery.org.uk/llf to sign up

Reigate Deanery will be hosting a 5-week long course to facilitate further conversations around **Living in Love and Faith (LLF)**.

Sessions will run for 5 consecutive weeks and each will be approximately 1.5 hours in duration. The session dates are as follows:

Session 1 – week beginning 13th September

Session 2 – week beginning 20th September

Session 3 – week beginning 27th September

Session 4 – week beginning 4th October

Session 5 – week beginning 11th October

The course will be run multiple times during the above weeks, as it is hoped many people will take part in these important conversations.

All sessions will be on Zoom, apart from two (as detailed below **), at the following times:

Mondays - 8pm

Tuesdays - 10am

Tuesdays - 8pm (evening venue: St. John's, Redhill)**

Wednesdays - 2pm

Wednesdays - 8pm

Thursdays - 2pm (afternoon venue: St. Mark's, Reigate)**

Thursdays - 8pm



LIVING IN LOVE & FAITH

This year the Church is inviting us all to join in the Living in Love and Faith project which focuses on questions about sexuality, marriage, gender and relationships such as:

- ✚ How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ?
- ✚ What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

We are all invited into a process of learning, reflecting, speaking and listening, which we hope will deepen our understanding of the faith we share, and strengthen us as the body of Christ together, united in one mission which is expressed through our diversity.

This has the potential to inform decisions that will have wide-reaching impact for years to come and ALL input is valued.

LLF material can be found on the Church of England website at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>

More can also be found on the Diocesan website at:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/llf>

It is recognised that discussing these issues can be challenging and may raise personal issues for many of us. We are aware of and thank God for the ministry and gifts of LGBTQI people across the Diocese and are aware that this may prove particularly painful or challenging for them, whatever their theological perspectives. A support network of pastoral listeners has been established who are happy to help anyone who is concerned.

They can be contacted confidentially through the dedicated e-mail address: llfpastoral@southwark.anglican.org.

News from the Church of England

'Remember Me' – St Paul's launches fundraising campaign for memorial

St Paul's Cathedral has launched a campaign in partnership with the Daily Mail to raise £2.3m to build a physical memorial in St Paul's Cathedral for those who died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It will be the first build of its kind at St Paul's for nearly 150 years and is part of the 'Remember Me' project, an online book of remembrance launched last year. More than 7,300 names of those who have died as a result of the pandemic have been entered into the book.

The campaign will install the online memorial book at a permanent site within St Paul's as well as on the internet. People entering the Cathedral by the new Equal Access Ramp will be able to go through the memorial into a tranquil space and take time to remember the many individuals who have died as a result of the pandemic.

The memorial will be a portico in the North Transept on the site of an earlier porch destroyed by a bomb in 1941. Oliver Caroe, the Cathedral's Surveyor to the Fabric, who has designed the memorial, lost his mother during the pandemic.

How a vicar's TikTok meant for seven teenagers reached 1.7 million

What began as an amusing way to keep up with the seven teenagers in her congregation is now serious outreach for the Rev'd Anne Beverley of Christ Church in Wesham, Lancashire.

When the coronavirus pandemic struck, the first lockdown brought with it a need to stay in touch with the teenagers in her congregation, so Rev'd Anne Beverley filmed on the social media platform, TikTok – but she did not expect what happened next.

In three days, her video on her TikTok account @ChristChurchWesham was seen not just by the seven local teenagers, but by 1.7 million people around the world.

"We just sat at home watching the numbers go up every time we refreshed our phones," said Rev'd Beverley, "it was ridiculous."

Today, five or six videos are posted each week, which range from dances and singing, to short sermons while walking the dog.

The church has more than 66,000 followers and receives around a thousand comments and questions about God each week.

Church News

Eco-Committee Update

In March, the Eco-Committee was put together with the aim of supporting St Mark's Church in achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 and also in its stewardship of our Earth.

To support this journey St Mark's has taken the first steps on the path to becoming recognised as an Eco-Church and it is with great pleasure that we can announce we have achieved a Bronze level award in the A Rocha UK's Eco-Church award scheme. A Rocha is a Christian Charity which helps churches and people care for the environment and its award scheme formally recognises the efforts churches go to in order to take more care of the environment.



It covers 5 core areas:

- Worship and Teaching
- Management of church buildings
- Management of church land
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

Whilst we are proud to have achieved Bronze, our work doesn't stop there; we will continue to make progress to try and achieve the silver and ultimately gold awards.

We will keep you updated with our progress and will be asking for your help and support along the way.

If you want to get more involved on an individual level, A Rocha have an initiative called Wild Christian, receive updates and ideas on how to do more for the environment, to get involved visit arocha.org.uk.

**Sophia Oliver, Liz Warren and Helen Starmer
Eco-Committee**

Anti-Racism Charter

On 13 March 2021, the Diocese of Southwark's Diocesan Synod voted unanimously to approve the Anti-Racism Charter (ARC), following a discussion led by The Venerable Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon and Diocesan Lead on Anti-Racism.

The Charter is active and intentional. It says: "being anti-racist is not the same as simply not being racist. It is not enough as a Diocese not to be racist; instead we must actively counter, disrupt and oppose racial injustice. This isn't an easy task, it takes introspection, as well as continued intentional action and is not a static description of ourselves."

The key principles of Southwark's Anti-Racism Charter are:

- an explicit theological understanding that God's kingdom is multi-ethnic, and that it is through our baptismal covenant that we recognise and respect the dignity of every human being and our unity in Christ
- an intentional focus in our theological studies, liturgy, teaching, prayer, word and work to take strategic and practical actions to combat racism and inequality
- a clear strategy for increasing and sustaining diversity in our governance structures at Diocesan and parish level so as to ensure representation and participation of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds at all levels of our organisation.

As well as its three key principles, the ARC includes six Diocesan commitments and a 12-point action plan for leadership and development.

Commenting on the Charter, the Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun said: "Our rich ethnic diversity in this Diocese is God's gift and blessing which we celebrate. I am greatly encouraged that the Diocesan Synod voted unanimously to endorse the Anti-Racism Charter which we are committed to implementing fully. There is no place for racist attitudes and behaviours in this Diocese. The Charter will guide us as we journey forwards in faith, hope and love for the people of South London and East Surrey."

The Charter can be found at:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Southwark-Anti-Racism-Charter.pdf>

The Long Walk

It was the first holiday with his extended family. In fact he had never had a holiday away from home except stays with an aunt and her family near Tonbridge in the summer holidays. His family had taken a cottage at Dymchurch on the south coast and his parents, three sons, two with wives, and a sister, all getting used to each other now that the older sons had returned from the air force and navy. It was a kind of celebration for the family getting through the war with no losses.

It was crowded in the cottage, but no one minded that. There was much more room than in the air raid shelter. The boy's daily ritual was to run to the newsagent and back every morning to get a paper for his Dad, and then after breakfast the days were divided between beach and walking. He preferred the beach which he had never before experienced; swimming, lazing about, but best of all playing cricket in bare feet on the warm hard sands. But the walks too were a new experience, the paths leading through the countryside over streams and through woods with always the chance of seeing something new, perhaps a new bird, crops or trees. So far, the one expensive outing was a ride on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch miniature railway. That was fun. There was only just room to sit in the small carriages and the engine gave off lots of smoke and whistles.

That afternoon, the whole family was all together walking across the Romney Marshes. They passed by an old church, maybe one of the first William had built after that disastrous invasion by the Normans. The marshes seemed to stretch for ever, as flat as a pancake, but broken by innumerable streams of varying sizes and bits of squelchy marshland, where you could easily lose a shoe or maybe sink in. You could never tell. In the far distance there was a rise which at first merged with the horizon. The family became spread out and as usual he liked to be in the lead.

It was not a straight walk because you had to find places to cross the many ditches, most filled with water. Where he could jump across, his mother and sister had to seek an easier way.

Now he could see that the marsh ended at a steep hill, really a small cliff and there on top was a castle with a large flag flying at its mast head. In his mind's eye the castle was under siege from the French like in a book he had read recently. The castle was insufficiently manned and it would be hard to defend. Perhaps a wall had already fallen and the breach would have to be defended. He found that in spite of the barriers of ditches and water, he was always directing himself towards that castle.

He heard his mother call after him and then his father's voice, "let him go." He took this as permission to forge ahead, for he was by now fascinated to see the castle close

up. Yet it was still a long way away and far from clear in the afternoon haze. He pressed on.

The ground became marshier and he learned to spot the wettest parts by the reeds growing up through the grass or in water. There seemed always to be even more ditches barring his way, telling him that the castle was not for him. This made him even more determined to get there. Then he found in front of him a wide ditch, perhaps twenty feet across, the water lazily making its way in the direction of the sea. Could he swim it? Well he might, but what to do about clothes, and he was certain his father would not approve. Yes, it was risky. So he followed its edge parallel to the castle but inland in the hope it would narrow.

Then some way ahead he spotted something jutting out into the water. As he got nearer he saw it was a most rickety bridge, no more than a couple of planks side by side joining others in front and supported only by poles thrust into the bed of the drainage ditch. Not all were upright. There was no hand rail. Tentatively he began to walk the planks which seemed to move under his feet. If he fell he would just have to swim back and walk home wet through. It seemed the further he got from the bank the more his balance wavered. But he finally made it to the other side.

It was as if the forces opposing his wish to see the castle gave up. Thenceforth there were fewer ditches, less marsh land and more firm grass. He looked up to see the castle now towering above him, the Union Jack still flying high.

The walls were certainly very old and insecure but they were not topped by battlements as he had hoped: more a big house of six stories than a castle really. But he had arrived, and that alone was satisfying. He found a way up the small cliff and walked round the outside of the garden of the house. It was extensive and overgrown. He wondered who lived here. Had it been deserted during the war? Or maybe it had been occupied by the military. It had command over a long area with excellent views on three sides. It was ideal as a machine gun post, he thought. On the other side it was better maintained with a grand pilloried entrance and a high heavy oak door with a gravelled lane leading away inland.

He sat on a log and rested. He had done what he had set out to do. He looked at the tall house and dreamed a bit. Centuries ago the house might have been stormed by Viking invaders and been pillaged. Roundheads in the time of the Commonwealth might have conquered it by force of arms. They might have interrogated him: "When did you last see your father!" - that famous painting inviting the child to betray his father's presence. Later still, but when the sea still reached the 'castle', French contraband ships might have stolen in on a dark night to land brandy, fine wines, tobacco and lace, breaking the embargo and risking a fight with the Customs men. Since then the land had pushed the sea further away.

He felt a bit stiff. It was time to go back. He gazed over the marsh from the vantage point of the cliff to see....no end to the marsh. The sea was still on his left but otherwise

the marsh stretched out in all directions. Where was his path back? Yet somewhere was the end, the church and then their rented cottage, but his parents and brothers were nowhere to be seen. He felt a bit lost.

He went back down the low cliff and set off keeping to the right of the way he thought he had come so that when he hit the broad stream he would know that if he kept left he must find that bridge. And so it turned out. His spirits rose and he went on, turning now and again to view the house to check whether it looked like it did, coming the other way. A broken pole told him he was on track. He came across an area of reeds which he could not recall having seen before and his confidence dropped.

He was definitely tired now, but there was no alternative to pressing on. It seemed harder to make diversions before he could jump across ditches, and they somehow seemed wider, his legs weaker. He was very thirsty.

His mind wandered back to the castle. Those steep high walls had been quite imposing. What dark deeds had been done there through the ages. Someone powerful must have lived there. Then he felt water in his plimsolls. He looked down. He was surprised to see water about his foot and not only that, but water in front and to either side. He panicked and was about to set out to try to run through this marsh. Only just did he hesitate and look further around him. In front the reeds were growing. To either side there was a sheen over the surface. Water! The only sensible thing to do was to retrace his steps. He felt tired and dispirited. Carefully he turned round. He could just see his footprints in the grass. Slowly he stepped back the way he had come till the ground gradually got dryer. What a fool he had been to let his mind wander. No more of that.

He described a wide circle to his left and the ground became hard. He looked back to the old house. It is still there but not where it should have been. Maybe he was lost.

Then he spotted something moving fast through the long grasses some way away. There had been a rumour of an escaped panther which preyed upon sheep and cattle, but that had been in Devon, not Romney Marshes. It was now clear that the animal was making straight for him. He looked round. He could see no weapon. He thought to run, but he was sure that was not the right thing to do. The animal grew and he could see it was huge. Stock still, he waited. When about ten yards away, instead of the leap he dreaded, it skidded to a crouch, panting, its eyes fixed directly on him. He had no idea what to do.

Just then there was a distant but piercing whistle and the Great Dane, for that was what it was, stared in the direction of the sound. In the far distance there was a man with a stick. The whistle came again and with seeming reluctance the dog hauled itself to its feet and set off, gathering pace. At the wide stream it did not hesitate but dived straight into the water to swim to the other side. Only then did the boy recall that it had been wagging its tail. How stupid he was.

Now the marsh seemed less wet and somehow more familiar and finally there was the church they had passed when they set off. The sight of the cottage was very welcome.

Inside his brothers were playing cards and did not notice him. In the kitchen his mother smiled and asked if he was tired. "Just a bit", he admitted, as he helped himself to a glass of water, and then another.

In the sitting room his Dad took out his pipe, "Did you find what you were aiming at?" he said. "It was the house that looked like a castle. I got there," he decided not to mention the dog. "That's good", said his dad. "I would like to do it again, maybe next year", the boy said. But he never did.

That night he dreamed that he was on safari in Africa. There were apes, lions and lots of elephants, but he was not afraid.

Harry Ingram

Singing in Church

It has now been a year since we reopened the Church for Public Worship, yet in all this time we have not been permitted to sing. At the time of writing, Government guidance states that singing should follow the principles of safer singing and the principles set out in the performing arts guidance. In particular:

- Where music plays a big part in worship, and recordings are available, these should be considered as an alternative to live singing or performing.
- A group of up to 6 amateur singers *can* perform with physical distancing being maintained at all times.
- Limit the duration of any singing, as far as possible.
- Communal singing, by the congregation, should not take place and strict physical distancing should be observed.

Although we could have a small choir in church, we have taken the view that the difficulties with arranging this and the singers being distanced one from another (which makes singing as a group difficult) and exactly who would be invited to sing, it is better for now to safely record hymns for use in our worship.

The Bishops of the Church of England through the Bishop of London (the lead bishop on COVID-19) have been lobbying the Government about allowing singing in Church by congregations. We have no indication when the rules might be changed, but we are hopeful that things might be relaxed after 19 July. Please watch this space!

CALENDAR FOR JULY 2021

Now that more services are taking place again in Church, this is our plan for July and August 2021 – subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

Saturday 3 rd July	St Thomas the Apostle
Sunday 4th July	5th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion with Holy Baptism – in Church and Online 4.00pm Family Service – in Church
Wednesday 7 th July	10.00am Coffee Morning on Zoom
Thursday 8 th July	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 11th July	6th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online 12.30pm Holy Baptism
Wednesday 14 th July	10.00am Coffee Morning on Zoom 8.00pm PCC Meeting
Thursday 15 th July	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 18th July	7th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online 4.00pm Family Fun Afternoon – in Hall and Garden
Wednesday 21 st July	10.00am Coffee Morning on Zoom
Thursday 22 nd July	St Mary Magdalene 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 25th July	St James the Great 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
Wednesday 28 th July	10.00am Coffee Morning on Zoom
Thursday 29 th July	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

CALENDAR FOR August 2021

Sunday 1st August	9th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
Wednesday 4 th August	10.00am Coffee Morning on Zoom
Thursday 5 th August	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 8th August	10th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
Wednesday 11 th August	10.00am Coffee Morning on Zoom
Thursday 12 th August	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 15th August	Blessed Virgin Mary 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
Wednesday 18 th August	10.00am Coffee Morning on Zoom
Thursday 19 th August	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 22nd August	12th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online 12.30pm Holy Baptism
Tuesday 24 th August	St Bartholomew
Thursday 26 th August	NO SERVICE OF Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 29th August	13th Sunday after Trinity 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

What's better than sliced bread?

On 22 July 1946, more than a year after World War Two ended bread was put on ration in the UK. Fast forward to 2021 and bread is on the menu in most homes for at least one meal in a day.

The range and variety of breads has also grown over time with a choice of Ciabatta, Focaccia, Sourdough, Farmhouse loaf to name a few. It is also



one of the most wasted foods, every day the equivalent of 20 million slices of bread are thrown away in the UK. A year's worth of bread slices laid end-to-end would circle the earth from pole-to-pole 28 times¹.

Now if you think the bread crumbs lurking in your toaster are old, an archaeologist in Jordan discovered bread crumbs in a cooking pit which were over 14,000 years ago, this was the oldest example of bread-making to be recorded². Back then it was considered a special treat, saved for the most important guests and occasions.

So to celebrate this versatile food stuff, here are 5 ways with bread:

- Pizza Bread – a firm favourite with children and a step up from cheese on toast. Add tomato ketchup to your toast before melting the cheese and pick your favourite toppings to make a quick tea time treat.
- Make Panko – no one likes the last stale crust so give it a culinary make-over and whizz it up in the food processor to create breadcrumbs, perfect for adding to chicken, tofu or fish, for a little bit of extra excitement, add pesto to make a pesto crust, it is super quick and will make lunch a little bit fancier.
- Bread and butter pudding – there are lots of recipes available to make this traditional pud a little bit more special, from adding chocolate to whisky. Stale bread has never tasted so comforting.
- Smashed avocado on toast – no need to pay a small fortune for this simple lunchtime treat. Make your own and pocket the savings.
- French toast – Sunday morning breakfast sorted.

And let's not forget bread is the symbol of the Lords' body when we take Holy Communion, so from its humble beginnings to its precious symbolism, bread is very versatile and pretty special.

1. Lovefoodhatewaste.com
2. Npr.org

Environmental News

Climate Change: Problems and Obstacles

Change and Decision Taking.

Let me begin by looking at a simple transaction. Over time, as yet unspecified, all domestic and other gas boilers will have to be phased out. Let us assume here that the customer is committed on the side of countering climate change (much easier for the others, though in time they may fall on their faces).

Case 1: His domestic boiler has finally broken down in 2021. It has to be replaced. Should it be another gas fired one or electric. The running costs currently are far higher for the electric option (assumed to be generated by green forces: wind, sun, maybe from the ground), but he hoped an electric solution will still be useable for many years. If he chose a gas one, it may soon be redundant when the prohibitions come in. Meanwhile the high electricity running costs will have to be borne. Furthermore, on the side of delay, more efficient, perhaps cheaper electric fires may come onto the market. You can see the choice is not necessarily so straight forward but he chooses to convert to electricity. I see that as a relatively easy decision but it is going to cost him rather more for the present.

Case 2: The customer's boiler is old but still running, or it has stopped, but at small cost it can be back to life. Should he change to electricity? All the sums say he should carry on with gas and change later. Electric fires may become cheaper. The climate consequences of that decision will be CO₂ still going into the air and accumulating there for several years, before he is forced to change. What would make him decide otherwise? Ideally the price of gas should be higher and the price of electricity lower.

The same scenarios will apply when buying a car or deciding on air travel, and probably just about every commercial decision. One choice may result in more CO₂ building up in the atmosphere until the change is made; the other, more use of green methods. The first choice will add to the climate problem. The latter should result in less pollution, but lose the advantages from technological, cost-reducing advances in the future.

This problem transforms the market process without abandoning it. But as Both Mark Carney and Bill Gates say, government involvement is essential.

Or let us put ourselves in the shoes of many employees of all statuses. Let us say she is an intelligent woman convinced of the need to counter climate change, but she is skilled in her profession and she is in her early years: she works as a senior executive in the gas industry. She values her long term career. Should she stay put till gas comes to an end, or change to another career whilst she is young enough to change?

Such decisions will touch almost everyone at all levels, including companies. It will not be at all easy.

If the pace of change could be slower and not only research, but all changes, could be managed at a slower and less invasive manner, immediate decisions might not be necessary. But we have squandered that time

Obstacles

Now let me look at what is happening at the top of the scale.

In the March 2020 Magazine I wrote on a report from the airport industry which purported to show how the industry planned to reach Net Nil Carbon Emissions by 2050. Unfortunately my review has been wiped off the website.

In summary, the Report formally accepted the seriousness of climate change and apparently squeezed out every inch of carbon savings from the industry. In many instances its recommendations assumed technological changes not yet on the horizon. This applies especially to fuel which is a very hard problem of cost and safety issues and no satisfactory fuel has yet been devised.

A few facts: the British aviation industry grew by 25% from 2010 to 2017. Only 15% of the population accounts for 70% of travel. Several times the report insists that government support will be necessary. Since full carbon pricing is not yet known; technically more efficient aircraft not yet developed; not much is known about potential new fuels presently in the lab, but little about their practicability and danger, the whole report is simply an imaginary sally into the future (with graphs of course). If all the proposals were to come good, the Report itself estimates that the industry would still be 30% short of reaching Net Nil by 2050. Government help through carbon recapture would still be necessary to offset the emissions of carbon still taking place. This problem it leaves for government, though carbon capture in quick time is still in its infancy and very expensive.

The clincher is that the industry also expects to get permission to expand by 70% by 2050 so the whole problem, rather than being solved, is made bigger. The report is certainly not fit for purpose.

Now let me update you. Currently there are seven planning applications from airports to increase carrying capacity. Of these, so far, two have been passed and two rejected and the appeals are in process. The three largest await a response direct from the government. What will the Planning Inspectorate make of the other two?

One, which has been passed, is of particular interest. It was rejected by the Council Planning Committee who, along with its officers, may have had some knowledge of Climate Change and what they were considering, but passed by full Council. What did those councillors actually know about it? Did they raise their hands as good councillors are expected to do, led by their chair?

My reading brought out several things new to me but I will touch on only one or two. Some time ago the government issued a directive that told the air industry to "get the best out of their present capacity." However, the Department of Industry Transport Analysis guidance (TAC) set out the way planning applications should be made. According to the report I read on the seven applications, TAC has been observed at best casually and one application fails to cover it at all. In my day such submissions would have been turned back without further consideration. But these days strong applicants hope for a positive decision, all dressed up but really based on other considerations than climate change. And it evidently sometimes works.

The TAC directs that so far as feasible, decisions should be on a kind of cost/benefit basis, so Climate Change considerations have to be given a money value to set off against the benefits. Numbers, however thinly based, seem to have a weight that judgement does not. But who knows the level of coming taxes on the use of carbon, deemed essential by all commentators? Without that, numbers are truly irrelevant. The prime criteria should be the elimination of the use of carbon by the target date, which is the base requirement.

So, is the example of the UK air industry an exception? Well, recently the Friends of the Earth and 17000 other complainants took Shell to the Hague court. Its finding was that to meet the companies own climate targets by 2030 the company needed to raise its carbon savings from 25% to 45%. That has been appealed. The path to net nil carbon by 2050 will be strewn with such resistance by businesses and by some governments favouring domestic industries.

Unless there is a radical change in the requirements of governments, the future is fairly clear. Cheaper fossil fuels will get past the door. Industries will fight their own corner based on cheaper fossil fuels. World-wide governments will continue to insist they are intent on the targets they sign up to, but will find excuses not to apply them to important domestic industries.

So, how to change? For the air industry, as a first step, the government should give notice of the withdrawal of all subsidies and impose taxes on fuel to the level of other users. There is no longer any case for subsidising air travel. It then needs to consider carbon pricing across the board.

The World Meteorological Office estimates that there is a 40% chance of the rise to plus 1.5 degrees Centigrade (the target for 2050) being breached before 2025. Against that scenario the G7 agreement to plan to reach nil net zero carbon by 2050 and half of that target by 2030 seems woefully inadequate. The aim from G7 to provide \$100b to poor countries which have suffered the most from climate change is obviously to be welcomed, but it does nothing to address the problem in hand. Carbon release remains the problem of the richer countries who supply the demand and producing countries like China and India which meet it.

It seems no more than common sense that for all industries the requirement to provide plans to reach net nil carbon use by 2050 should NOT be an invitation to arguments based on self-interest and basically to go on as before. Climate requirements must come first, and last. Experts seem to agree that carbon pricing is an essential tool. It's a complex subject, but some countries already tax carbon use. The UK, for example, does so through taxes on petrol and diesel. But for other countries, such as the US, putting taxes on 'gas' is a certain way to lose the next election. Climate Change is an area where not only governments but all people need to understand the urgency for action.

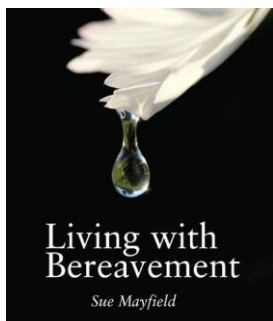
Governments must surely be putting together strategic plans to meet their targets. Without that, targets mean little, as they have over so many years in the past. The G7 meeting shows little sign of recognising the urgency for action.

You might expect that the coming world meeting on Climate Change in Glasgow would require scrutinised plans from all countries which meet projected targets for 2030 in advance of the meeting, so their efficacy can be evaluated. You might think that there would be a specific committee informed on climate change, for vetting the plans. Plans should cover immediate action in areas already understood such as the development of clean electricity, but they should also include funding for research on many aspects such as new power sources and the recovery of carbon from the atmosphere. Both Gates and Carney consider this has to be a governmental function. Planting trees, wet land developments and so on, may be too little too late. Decisions on change affecting climate should only be taken by those who understand the issues and not by those who have a vested interest in the continued use of fossil fuels.

Harry Ingram

Book Review

This month: *Living with Bereavement* by Sue Mayfield



When I became a Reader at St Marks in 1981 one of the first tasks given me by the vicar was to visit a man in the parish whose wife had just died. I did not know him before this so went there wondering how I might cope with it. He gave me a cup of tea and we sat down together. He said to me, "How I wish I had a faith like you, Ian, to cope with my grief." I felt so very humbled as I had not experienced the death of someone really close to me, so how would I get on in such a situation?

Since then many of us have had to cope with such traumatic situations and especially it has been heart breaking for those separated from their loved ones by Covid.

I now have as a motto "Life as we know it ends, but love can go on forever." Of course, although every person and every bereavement must be different for each of us, I found this book very helpful. The chapters are as follows:

- When Someone Dies
- Shock and Anticipation
- Funerals and Ceremonies
- Disbelief and Disorientation
- Absence and Presence
- Continuity and Routine
- Anger and Guilt
- Regret and Relief
- Loss and Despair
- Tears and Sadness
- Energy and Sleep
- Loneliness and Yearning
- Faith and Hope
- Support and Comfort
- Words and Silence
- Belongings and Changes
- Anniversaries and Remembrances
- Endings and Beginnings

Publisher Lion, obtainable from Church House Bookshop for £7.99.

Thanks to Ian Archer for this month's book review. If you would like to recommend a book for next month, please email magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Reader recipes

Another vegan recipe for those who love Chinese food. This is a healthy twist on a take-away.

Tofu – Special Fried Rice (serves 2)

Ingredients:-

- 150g of your favourite rice, I've used red rice.
- Coconut oil
- Marinated tofu – one 160g pack (I like Cauldron)
- One onion finely chopped
- One courgette
- Frozen soya beans
- Two large forks full of Kimchi
- Soya sauce to taste



Method:-

1. Put the rice in a pan and boil as per the cooking instructions.
2. Place the coconut oil in a frying pan and let it melt on a medium heat.
3. Add the onion to the pan and let it cook for 3 minutes until translucent.
4. Add the courgette to the pan and allow to cook for 5 minutes.
5. Add the tofu and the soya beans and allow then to heat through, this should take no more than about 5 minutes.
6. Once the rice is ready, add this to the frying pan with the other ingredients.
7. Finally, add the Kimchi and soya sauce and let it heat through for 2 minutes and serve.

This recipe is one of my own from months of experimenting. Feel free to add more vegetables as you prefer. If you have a recipe you would like to share, it can be anything, send it to magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk.

Puzzles

July Sudoku Puzzle

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

June Solution

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

Level Up Laptop Refurbishment

Do you have an old laptop sitting at home unused?

Voluntary Action Reigate and Banstead need your help. Level Up Reigate & Banstead is a project that provides refurbished laptops for children and young people who need them for home study. They are in need of 500 laptops.

Laptops are donated by the community, refurbished by volunteers and distributed to children and young people via local schools and charities.

Your laptop must be running Windows 7, 8 or 10 and have at least one USB port. Please note we are no longer accepting phones or laptops with Windows XP or Vista.

All laptops will be securely wiped or have hard discs removed and destroyed. They are then refurbished before distribution.

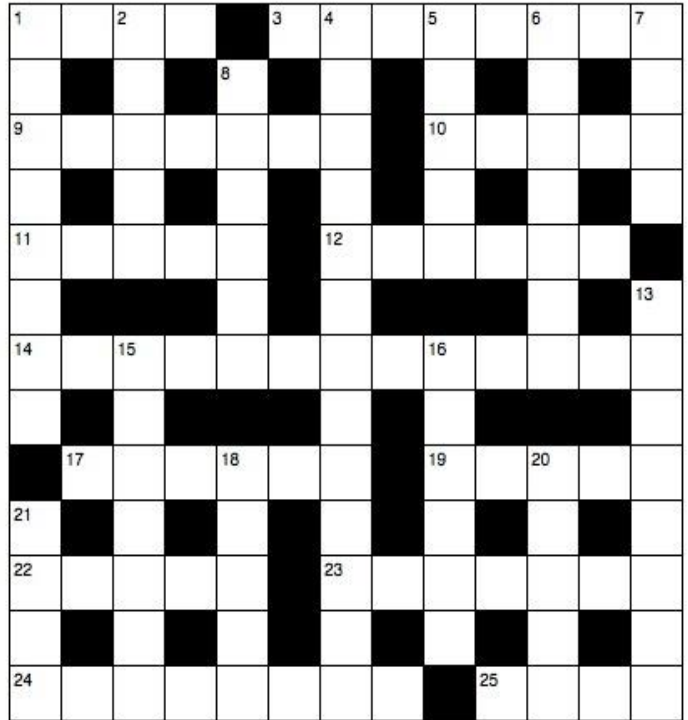
To find out how to give visit: <https://www.varb.org.uk/level-up/>

July Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)
 3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
 10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York 13)
 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)



Down

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

June solution

Across:

- 1 Ambush 4 School 8 Tired 9 Famines 10 Citadel 11 Endor. 12 Atonement 17 Avert 19 Oracles
 21 Married 22 Lance 23 Rhythm 24 Hyssop

Down:

- 1 Attach 2 Biretta 3 Sided 5 Compete 6 Owned 7 Lustre 9 Falsehood 13 Ostrich 14 Talents
 15 Farmer 16 Asleep 18 Early 20 Alley



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