Holy Trinity (without the walls) **Parish News**

Norris Road, Blacon, Chester. CH1 5DZ



LOCKDOWN Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation. Yes there is panic buying. Yes there is sickness. Yes there is even death. But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise You can hear the birds again. They say that after just a few weeks of quiet The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear. They say that in the streets of Assisi People are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are along may hear the sounds of family bround them. They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to

housebound

LOCKDOWN continued

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless,

the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters. To Love.

So we pray and we

remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness. Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be meanness. Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth of love. Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now. Today, breathe. Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic The birds are singing again The sky is clearing, Spring is coming, And we are always encompassed by Love. Open the windows of your soul And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square, Sing.

Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM

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The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham considers sacrificial love

Why did Jesus die?

'God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you.'' (Billy Graham).

God showed His love for us, when Jesus dealt with the problem of our sin on the cross. 'He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed' (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus died in our place to bear our sin and guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin and to set us free from death.

In the 75th anniversary year of the liberation of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, it's appropriate to remember the story of Fr Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest imprisoned in Auschwitz.

On 31st July 1941 a prisoner escaped from the camp and in response the authorities selected ten men to die in the starvation bunker. One of the men, Francis Gajinisdek, cried, 'My poor wife and my children. They'll never see me again!' Then Kolbe stepped forward and said, "I'm a Catholic priest. I don't have a wife and children and I am willing to die instead of this man." He followed



the other nine into the bunker. Remarkably he got the prisoners praying and singing hymns and transformed the atmosphere in the bunker. He was the last person to die and after two weeks he was given a lethal injection and died at the age of 47.

Jesus' death was even more amazing than this, because He didn't simply die for one man, but for every individual in the world. If you or I had been the only person in the world, Jesus Christ would still have died in our place. 'Hallelujah, what a Saviour'!!

(from Parish Pump).

WE ARE NOT ALONE

At time of writing, the coronavirus death because we know we have (COVID-19) pandemic is just beginning to affect many aspects of our daily lives. Streets are emptying, businesses are shutting their doors, people are selfisolating. It is one more reminder (as if we needed it) that we live in a fallen world of sickness, sin, suffering, and death. Ultimately, none of us are immune to any of these things.

But that's why the gospel is such good news. God has not left us alone in this world of sickness, sin, suffering, and death. He has come to us in the person of Jesus. The greatest news in all the world is that Jesus lived a life with no sin, died on a cross to pay the price for our sin, and rose from the grave in victory over sin and death. Now anyone anywhere who turns from their sin and trusts in Jesus will be forgiven of all their sin and restored to relationship with God forever. That means that through Jesus, we never have to fear sickness or

eternal life with God

Times like these remind us all of the fragility of life and the inevitability of death. So let's spread the greatest news that death has been defeated and eternal life is available to all who trust in Jesus.

Additionally, let's remember that God is bigger, His love is stronger, than any virus, or any fear of illness or anything else. God who is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever. He is the same whatever else in our society or our daily lives changes. So let us Trust in God, the good and sovereign Creator and Sustainer of life upon whom we all depend.

And as a Church, while we are used traditionally to gathering together under one roof, if for good reasons people do not want to leave their homes, let us nevertheless he a church that reaches out to those who are sick. those who are self-isolating, those who are fearful or lonely. We at Holy Trinity are here to pray for others, and to care for others in practical ways. If you know somebody who is in need in any way, maybe through a phone call, a prayer, or some other input, please do let us know (we have many qualities, but we are not mind-readers).

Tina Upton

Grandad was babysitting when he heard his little grand-daughter muttering the alphabet over in hushed tones. "What are you doing?" he asked her. "I'm praying," she replied. "I can't think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me 'cos He knows what I'm thinking."



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Guidance on Spiritual Communion and Coronavirus

From the Church of England website. As the church has had to completely close now, we will all have to make our own communion with God at home. The following may be helpful for you in that.

The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. The form of prayer below offers Christians an opportunity to give thanks for their communion with him, particularly at times when they would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. Making a Spiritual Communion is particularly fitting for those who cannot receive the sacrament at the great feasts of the Church, and it fulfils the duty of receiving Holy Communion 'regularly, and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun or Pentecost' (Canon B 15).

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

In making a Spiritual Communion, you may wish to pray all or part of what follows on page 11, as you are able.



At this time of crisis, nevertheless members of Holy Trinity Church continue to be– **REACHING OUT** WITH CHRIST TO ALL



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An act of Spiritual Communion

You may wish to find a space for prayer in front of a cross, a candle, or a special place. You might choose to make your Spiritual Communion at a particular time of day, or after viewing a live streamed service.

REFLECT on the day and on your relationships.

- What good things have come from God today?
- Where have I fallen short?
- What might I do tomorrow?

You may wish to SAY OR PRAY Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

READ the following words from Scripture. If you have access to today's readings for Holy Communion, you may wish to read and reflect on them. Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' John 6.35

PRAY for the needs of the world,

for your local community, and for those close to you. End with the Lord's Prayer. Our Father...

GIVE THANKS for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

CONCLUDE with the following: The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. Amen.



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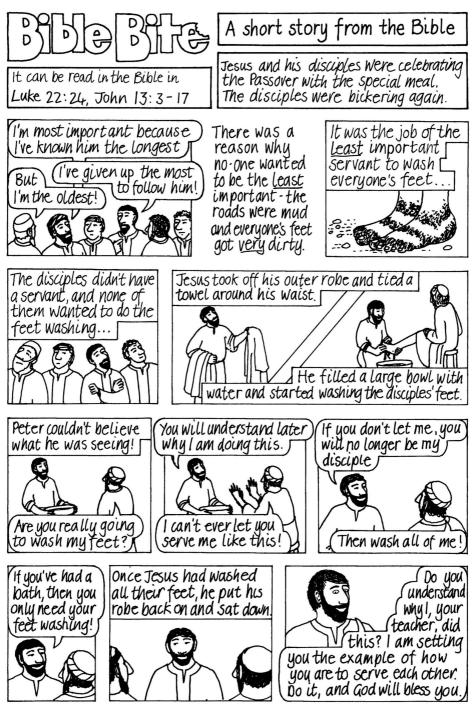


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60 years ago

On 12th August 1953, the record St Chad's Church Committee, [attended by the Rector (Rev C. Monkman), Mrs Monkman, Mr Bailey, Mr and Mrs Douthwaite, Mr Gent, Mr Hitchen, Mrs Douswell, and Mrs Carter] reads as follows:

"The Church Commissioners and the city surveyor offered three new sites for a new church, church hall and vicarage. The site adjoining the Highfield Hotel was rejected outright and a discussion followed relating to the two sites on the part of the housing estate which is now being developed."

After some discussion, they resolved that "a site behind the civic centre and in line with the Saughall Road over the railway bridge, and past the school, be accepted." By September 1954 the site offered had moved, and the minutes record that "the siting of this new church was not liked." The hope was that building was due to start the following year, with the cost born by a loan from the Diocese of £30,000, to be repaid by the parish.

In the end, the Church Foundation Stone was laid by the Bishop of Chester (Rt Rev Gerald Ellison) on Saturday 20th December 1958. The new building was finally consecrated at a service at 8pm on Saturday 16th April 1960.

To mark our 60th birthday, we will be holding a display of the history of Blacon over the last 60 years around then.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to our celebrations, please do contact the Rector.

NOTICES

WEBSITES

If you or friends/family are particularly anxious at this time, I recommend having a look at <u>www.peacewithgod.net/</u> <u>worried-about-coronavirus/</u> Also, it might be good to use this time to grow in your knowledge and love of the Lord If you are able, have a look at the website <u>www.courses.goingfarther.ne</u> <u>t</u> for highly commended courses you can sign up with for free.

DO LET US KNOW if you or someone you know is in particular need at this time, and we will do our utmost to support in whatever way we can.

SEND US YOUR REFLECTIONS

While many of you are at home, it may be that you come across – or produce yourself – which could be a support and encouragement to the rest of us. Do send us your prayers, verses, meditations, poems, pictures, videos, and we will share them around the church membership.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are attempting to keep in touch with everyone each week, deliveries in the community. If you are able to help us, please let me know.



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Praying for Blacon



As part of an inter-church prayer focus for Blacon, please could you pray, commencing on these Sundays, for the residents living in these roads:

5 April	Norris Road, Trinity Gardens, Lynwood Road, Burton Road & Norman Way			
12 April	Onslow Road, Springwood Close, Overwood Lane & Melverley Drive			
19 April	Imperial Avenue, Embassy Close, Bristol Close & Virginia Drive			
26 April	Woodside Road, Oakfield Road, Highfield Road & Foxcote Close			

living people bless the city, **it flourishes**"

"When right-

Prov 11:11 The Message

The May issue of the Parish News will be available on or about Sunday, 26th April 2020. All contributions should be submitted to the Parish Office *(see back page)* by **Thursday, 9th April 2020**. Thank you. If you would like to subscribe to our magazine please contact the Church Office on 01244 376085 - annual cost is £4.00.

Blind spots – or spotting blindness?

I have recently been studying something called 'reflexivity.' It means working out what assumptions I have and trying to understand how they affect the way I behave. Great in principle, but almost impossible in practice. The problem is that I don't notice my assumptions. Reflexivity is a way of examining my 'blind spots'. But the clue is in the title – they're the things that I can't see and don't know about myself!

The psalmist puts it lyrically:

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24)

Great, but how?

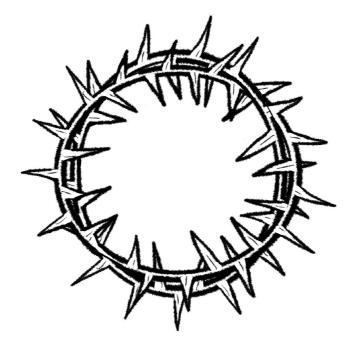
God's word is 'live and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account' (Heb 4:12-13). Praying and contemplating God's words helps me to test my values and actions. Its where He exposes my blinds spots, and its often uncomfortable!

God invites each of us to identify and confess our personal failings and those of our whole community, trusting in his promise of forgiveness and restoration (<u>Ps 32:5. 69:5, James 4:7-10, 1 John 1:9</u>). As Christians we seek justice for people failed by society's 'blind spots.'

People in debt, unemployed, suffering illness and disability. Those who work long hours in multiple jobs to provide for their families. Those who suffer loss and bereavement. The list is endless.

As we journey through Lent towards the cross, we do so in the knowledge that this is not the end of the story. The church stands as a prophetic sign of resurrection to demonstrate God's justice and mercy. We glimpse that resurrection in the friendships at the café and Playtots. We see it in the generosity of volunteers. It is visible in the beauty that the gardening project brings to the church, and kindness people who put on holiday lunches and activities. These are the places where the church demonstrates that it lives by a different script: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. A script that exposes society's blind spots.

Louise Annison







SEVEN DAY BURN

7pm, Friday 22 May – 9pm, Friday 29 May

What is it?

Burn 24/7 Chester is partnering with Link Up and Presence House of Prayer, Chester to host **170 hours of non-stop worship and prayer** during Thy Kingdom Come 2020.

Where will it be happening?

In the Prayer Room at The Melbourne Centre, Melbourne Road, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5JQ

Is it really 24/7?

Yes it is! The prayer room will be open all the time for 170 hours so people can come and go. We'll publish the full schedule nearer the event.

How can I get involved?

You can offer to 'adopt an hour' to lead worship, or host a time of prayer about somethin which is important to you. This could be by yourself or with a group. We also need people to help with stewarding and hosting.

More details and a sign-up form are on our website: **www.presencehop.org/7-day-burn**. Or you can email **robind@theburn247.com** for more information.







FURTHER PRAYERS YOU MAY WISH TO USE

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen.

O God,

help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love

revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful; in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you; in these days of emptiness, take possession of us; in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross. Amen Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the

Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

Angela Ashwin

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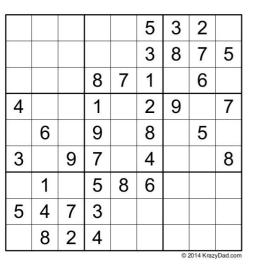
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Happy to help Happy to pray

Sadly our services are temporarily suspended but we are open Mon, Thur & Sun 9am-12 noon for prayer, reflection and a (safely-spaced) chat.

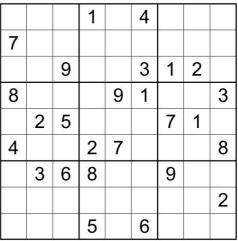






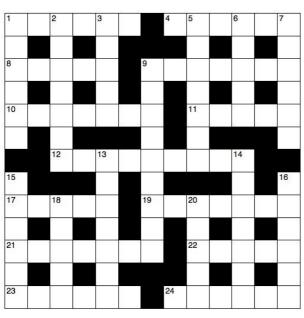






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Across

1 Relating to the whole universe (6) 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6) 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25)

(2,3) 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)

Crossword Clues

10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)

11 [']Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)

12 Řepossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)

17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)

19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord'

(Exodus 34:29) (7) Roopwit C S Lewis's

21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half -man, half-horse (7)

22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)

23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the —

apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)

24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)

2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)

3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)

5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)

6 11 Across is certainly this (5)

7 He reps (anag.) (6)

9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)

13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27)

(7)

14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)

15 The human mind or soul (6)

16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is —

' (Graham Kendrick) (6)

18 'We played the flute for

you, and you did not —

(Matthew 11:17) (5)

20 Bared (anag.) (5)



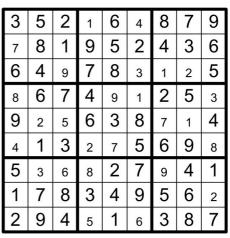


Sudoku Solutions

Easy

Medium

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



CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS





...er... the good news is the youth-group have made a great start by pressure-washing the west window...

