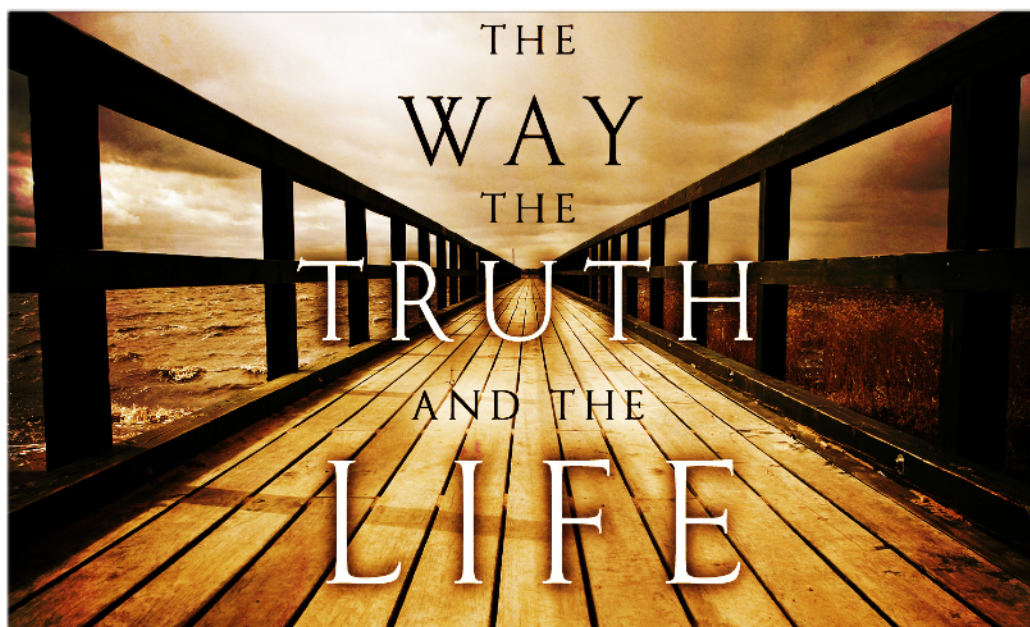


# The Rambling Rector

Definition: *A White Flowering Climbing Rose Or A Vicar With No Sermon Script!*



## Schools Out For Summer

But a bit too soon!

Any other year, unexpected freedom from end-of-term lectures and exam timetables would surely be cause for celebration. But this year, many students' terms have ended with a tremendous anticlimax.

Spare a thought for those who, whether they're sixth-formers or prospective grads, will have no summer term, no celebration party, no opportunity to hug their friends goodbye. Many had to leave their student houses and head home suddenly, now figuring out how to complete their degrees from a distance. It wasn't meant to be like this. And there's nothing they can do about it, except sit in the disappointment.

The temptation is to run from or deny this reality: be it watching all of TIGER KING in a weekend or bulldozing our emotions with 'God's in charge' mantras. But the gospel shows us and the students we know a better way. Rather than a God who shows us how to escape disappointment, Christians believe in a God who shows up IN our disappointment.



### THIS WEEK



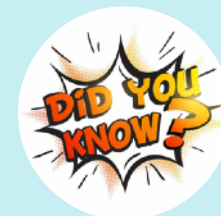
#### News

We'll Meet Again



#### Photos

A Reflective Theme



#### Rectory Revelation

Facts Revealed

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews captures this fact, in pointing out that Jesus is not ‘unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses’ (4:15). Jesus dealt with disappointment too – we see it in His response to His townsfolk’s lack of faith, and His closest friends falling asleep when He needed them most.

If disappointment was an experience for Jesus, we can be sure it will be an experience for those who follow Him. Recognising there is no quick fix, on-demand, life-hack solution might be a way to help the students we love to come to terms with their disappointment.

To do so might even be the first step towards a more profound truth: Christians do not believe that we face disappointment alone. He is IMMANUEL – God with us. And as we discover that reality, our disappointment might not only be validated, it might be transformed.

Knowing Jesus and trusting Him is a hope that ‘does not disappoint us’ (Romans 5:5). Because in God’s story, disappointment – whether a missed goodbye or a Saviour on a cross – is only momentary. The truth is that He’s putting this not-as-it-should-be world back together, as His kingdom comes, day by day. This is the hope of the gospel. And that kind of hope is good news for all of us, including students.

## Bible Readings

### Acts 7:55-end

**55** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. **56** ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.’

**57** At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, **58** dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

**59** While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ **60** Then he fell on his knees and cried out, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he fell asleep.

### John 14:1-14

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. **2** My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going.’

**5** Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’

#### PRAYER FOR TODAY

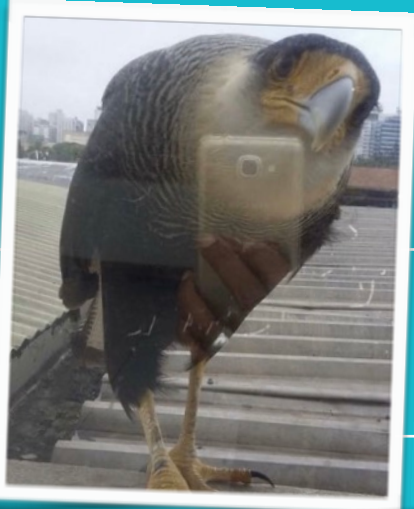
Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.



**6** Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

**8** Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'

**9** Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? **10** Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.'

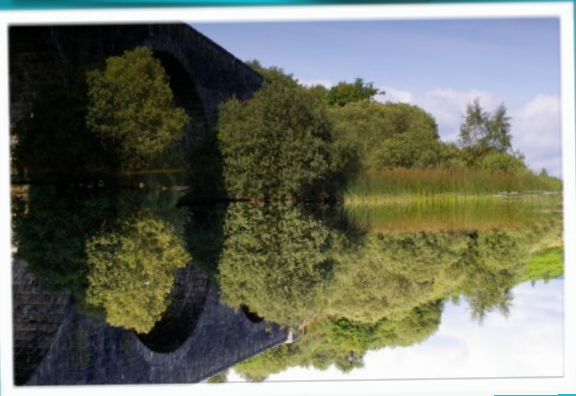


Parish Photos  
Theme: Reflection

Nicola Elvin - A bird tweeting!



Wendy Groves - The outside inside, or the inside outside?



Sybil & Terry - Two swans a swimming



David Liddle - Which way is up? Have we have inverted this shot?



Grace Elvin - Infinite Grace!



# Reflection - By Neil

We can take one look at someone and without trying make all kinds of assumptions about them, and we often assume things about them that simply aren't true.

For example, I've always been tall. When I started primary school I was the tallest in the school on day one, the same with secondary school. Back in the 1970's, I was playing on a swing in a playground when another parent challenged my Mum. *'Why are you letting your older son play on the swings for the little kids?'* I was only 5. It was assumed I was older than I was.

I suspect if we were all to sit round and share, we could all say that at some point, some one, has made an assumption about us - it happens to everyone.

It happened to Jesus all the time. The people he met during his ministry made many assumptions.

- Some thought he was an earthy Messiah, one who would save them from the Romans.
- Others thought he was from the devil.
- Some saw him as a wonderful teacher, but when he began defining himself as more, they couldn't handle his claims and left him.

The same is still true today. Many people look at Jesus as no more than an incredible teacher who showed us the right way to live, shared the truth about God and helped people live a good life.

However, Jesus was far more than that.

In John, Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

- Jesus is not just one who shows the way, **He is the way.**
- He does not just speak the truth, **He is the truth.**
- Jesus is not just a role model who demonstrated the godly life, **He is the One who gives life.**

We often base our impressions of a person on just one or two experiences, without actually knowing everything about them.

Yet, even those closest to Jesus didn't recognise the truth of his identity. They were looking on the surface, basing their assumptions on their own ideas, wants and needs. But Jesus repeated over and over again that he was far more than just a man who came to be a king or role model. He is the Living God, the One from whom all gifts come – life, hope, peace, joy and grace.

There are many like Philip in today's world, those who do not see Jesus as he really is – the Way, the Truth and the Life. We cannot know the Father without Jesus, for Jesus is the full revelation of God to humanity so that we can know the Truth and have Life.

It was reported last weekend that during 'normal' times only 6% of the population attend a religious service. However, they estimate that the other weekend 25% attended some sort of online or televised service, and 44% are now praying.

He is truly the only way for us to have a relationship with God, and so I pray that those 25% continue to get to know the living Lord as the Way the Truth and the Life.



# VE Day Anniversary

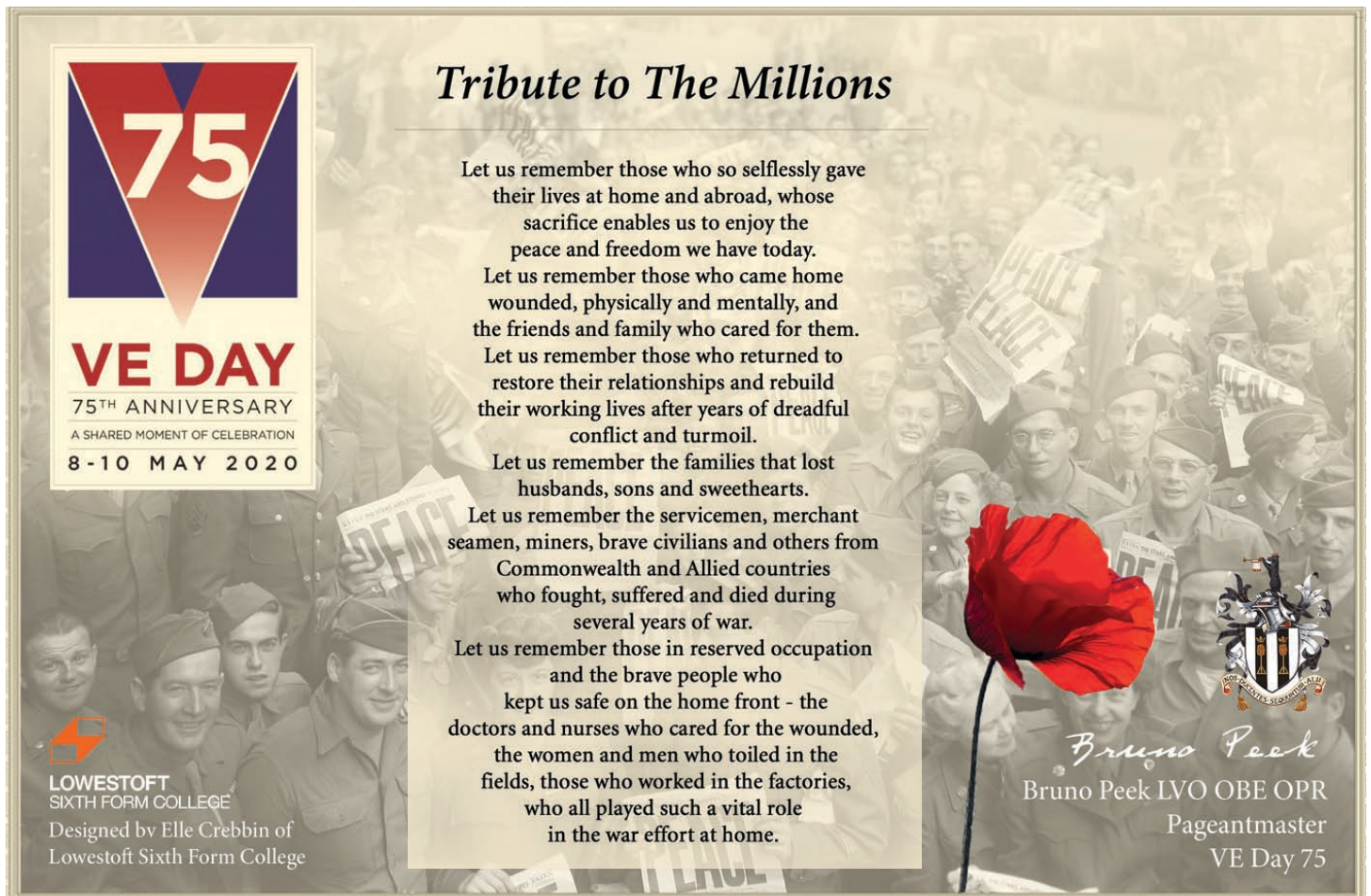
## St Oswald's Academy

Staff from St Oswald's were planning VE Day Celebrations, however, we know that's not possible.

So, using Vera Lynne's famous song, We'll Meet Again, they put together a montage of messages to the children, whilst wearing red, white and blue. Here's a selection, and the full video can be seen on the Rambling Rector YouTube site.







## VE Day 75th Anniversary

8-10 May 2020

Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR Pageantmaster VE Day 75 writes: *"I am afraid that the terrible Coronavirus emergency and consequent Government guidance means that we must advise participants to cancel or postpone the majority of the VE Day 75 community celebrations due to take place on the bank holiday weekend of 8th - 10th May. It is right and proper that people should be kept safe and healthy."* Nevertheless, we can still remember, reflect, and pray wherever we might be.

When VE Day dawns on 8th May 2020 it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. Years of carnage and destruction had come to an end and millions of people took to the streets and pubs to celebrate peace, mourn their loved – ones and to hope for the future, but not forgetting those still in conflict until 15th August when it was announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II.

The 75th anniversary will provide our nation, and our friends around the world, with an opportunity to reflect on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark and terrifying period.

We will remember the members of the Armed Forces and Merchant Navy from many countries who gave their lives or returned home injured in body and mind, the hard-working women and men who operated the factories, mines, shipyards and farms, and ARP wardens, police officers, doctors, nurses, fireman, local defence volunteers and others who toiled day and night selflessly on the home front during difficult frightening and uncertain times.

# Rectory Revelation

## Did You know

The Great Pyramids in Egypt were the world's tallest structures for a staggering 3,871 years, until the construction of Lincoln Cathedral in 1311. No-one knows for certain how tall Lincoln Cathedral was, however, as its three spires have all been destroyed, leaving it just 83 metres tall.



It is generally agreed that the largest spire, which was destroyed in a storm in 1549, extended its height to 160 metres (525ft).

Visible from miles around is the golden ball atop St Lawrence's Church in West Wycombe. It is 8 feet in diameter, contains seating for up to six people, and was reputed to be a meeting place for the Hellfire Club, a society of rich and riotous rakes (motto: "do what thou wilt.")

The Earl of Sandwich, William Hogarth and John Wilkes were thought to be members.

## 10TH MAY - COMGALL, THE SAINT FOR THOSE IN EDUCATION

Here is a great saint for all teachers, head teachers and principals of educational institutions, and indeed anyone whose vocation is to train and equip others.

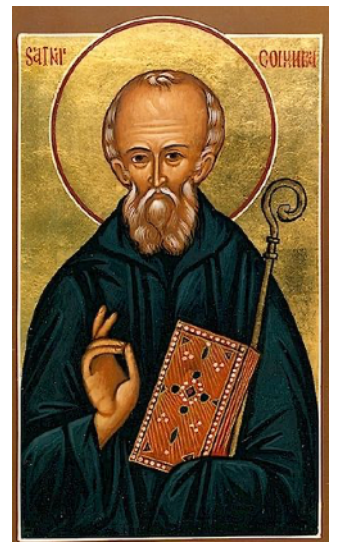
For Comgall (c 516 - c 601) was founder and first abbot of Bangor, which became the largest monastery in Ireland. And large means LARGE - for including several daughter houses, the total population is reckoned to have been 3,000.

If you have ever run an educational institution of 3,000 pupils (!), you will know it takes a special kind of person to cope with that, and Comgall seems to have been perfect for the job. A biographer at the time called him 'the outstanding father of the monks in Ireland, known for his insistence on study and strict discipline.'

Comgall's rule had what it took to succeed. It was 'strict, holy and constant', both 'graced with the hope of salvation and made perfect in love', according to the 7th century writer Antiphoner of Bangor. Above all, followers were to love Christ, and reject the love of money.

Comgall also had a gift for friendship, for on the death of a close friend, he wrote in grief: 'My soul-friend has died and I am headless; you too are headless, for a man without a soul-friend is a body without a head.'

Like heads and principals today, Comgall knew a lot of important people. He had trained Columbanus and knew Columba, whom he visited on Iona. They even preached the Gospel together in Inverness, to the pagan chieftain Brude.





## Prayers

Let us pray to the Lord,  
who is our refuge and  
stronghold.

For the health and well-  
being of our nation,  
that all who are fearful  
and anxious  
may be at peace and free  
from worry:

For the isolated and  
housebound,  
that we may be alert to  
their needs,  
and care for them in their  
vulnerability:

For our homes and  
families,  
our schools and young  
people,  
and all in any kind of  
need or distress:

For a blessing on our local  
community,  
that our neighbourhoods  
may be places of trust and  
friendship,  
where all are known and  
cared for:

We commend ourselves,  
and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and  
protection of God in the  
name of Jesus. Amen

may the God of hope  
fill you with all  
Joy and Peace  
in believing, so that by  
power of the Holy Spirit  
you may abound  
in hope.

Romans 15:13



## CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF THE CENTENARY PROJECT

This May, the Centenary Project is celebrating 5 years of youth, children and families' work in parishes across the Diocese. The project has gone from concept to a flourishing team of 30 across 26 parishes. Whilst always remaining focussed on our core aim, to equip local churches to effectively engage, grow and disciple a new generation of young people, children and families.

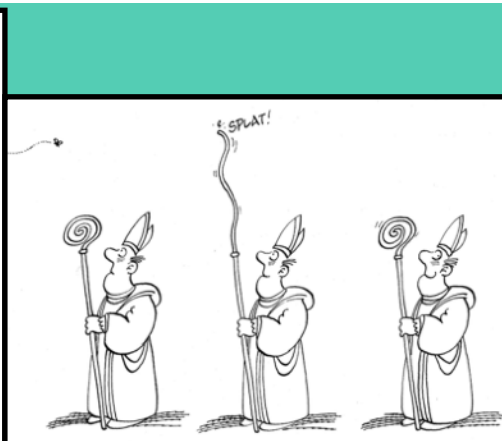
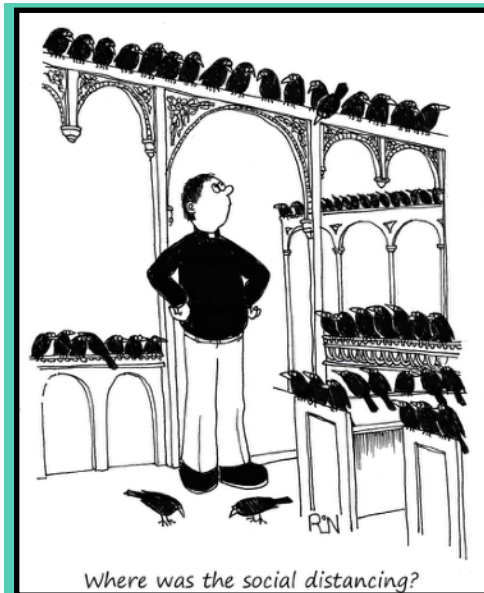
From 11-15 May, across our social media channels, we will be reflecting on everything the Centenary Project has achieved over the last five years. We will introduce our team and share the impact that the Centenary Project has every day in South Yorkshire. Through video messages, stories takeovers and messages from our key partners, we will be bringing our five-year celebrations to you – across [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Of course our very own Hannah Redeyoff will be featuring too!

Throughout the week we'll be sharing video messages from our partners including Bishop Pete Wilcox, former Bishop of Sheffield, Bishop Steven Croft, Mark Russell, Chief Executive of The Children's Society and Alysén Merrill from Reign Ministries as well as hearing from past workers and comments from the young people we work with.

We'll be sharing some facts and figures about the project; do you know how many young people we regularly interact with? How many parishes we've worked with over the last 5 years? Or how many portions of fish and chips we got through on Wild Away Day? Join us throughout the week as we share a bit more about the Centenary Project over the last five years. We'll also be asking you to join with us in prayer, for our workers, our parishes and the young people, children and families that we serve.

Make sure you're following us on social media so you don't miss our celebration and sign up to our newsletter [here](#), we will be sending a special celebration edition next week.





The new 'chameleon' crosier was proving popular amongst bishops.



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone - he uses something called Predictable Text..."

## ON WHY HOLDING AN ARTS FESTIVAL IN CHURCH IS NOT A GOOD IDEA

The Rectory  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren



Your decision to hold a Summer weekend Arts Festival in church, bringing culture to your inner-city streets, was most commendable. Pity, how it all turned out.

The Friday evening started well with the concert of Scott Joplin piano music. Obviously knowing that the pieces were originally played in seedy bars on pianos wildly out of tune with several notes missing, your committee must have gone to endless trouble to find precisely the right instrument. Your stage-hands, were, however, less careful and hadn't noticed that the platform had a noticeable list to port. After each piece, the pianist had to relocate the piano stool closer to his nomadic piano, with the last piece being performed with both entirely out of sight behind the pulpit.

It created much innocent entertainment for the audience, but the fault really should have been remedied before the Saturday evening choir concert. Discarded kneelers and rotting hymn books do not form a stable base for a stage supporting an 80-strong choir. So when it came to the enthusiastic rendering of hits from 'Oklahoma', with copious hand movements, it came as something of a relief that the stage took this as the moment to signal defeat, tipping the tenors behind the altar. The audience's thunderous applause, assuming this was a carefully choreographed part of the performance, was quite touching. I am sure all the compensation claims will soon be sorted out.

Your one great mistake was to take on responsibility for organising the refreshments afterwards. Church entertainments committees have centuries of collective experience in judging the numbers of ham sandwiches and bottles of milk required. I am forever proud that our own ladies - through years of experience - can now get five cups of tea from every tea bag and can butter bread so thinly that one pack can last several months.

What you now do with 29 surplus loaves of bread is a problem you have brought upon yourself. You could possibly use them for supporting the stage next year.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

# Christian Aid Week

**“Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.”**

This Sunday, 10th May, marks the beginning of Christian Aid Week with a new Coronavirus Appeal. The coronavirus outbreak threatens the health of our neighbours near and far. Now it is spreading across the world's poorest countries, putting people living in poverty at great risk. These people are already facing a lack of water, food and healthcare. Some are homeless. Some are living with underlying health issues such as HIV. As coronavirus infection rates speed up, they will feel the impacts of the virus deeply. It is important to act quickly to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

Christian Aid is responding to the coronavirus outbreak in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. They're working together with partners and faith leaders to inform people about the risks, offering hygiene and hand washing sessions, equipping health facilities with supplies and providing training to frontline aid workers. They're providing food packages to some of the most marginalised families and ensuring protection for women affected by domestic violence.

There are 3 ways in which we can help:

- We can pray.
- We can donate to the Christian Aid Coronavirus Emergency Appeal
- There are 3 ways to do this-
  - You can donate online
  - You can call 08080 004 004
  - You can write a cheque payable to Christian Aid and send it to:

*Christian Aid, The Data Solution Centre, Manton Wood  
Enterprise Park, Worksop. S80 2RT*



However due to the current circumstances be aware that donations by post may take some time to process.

We can sign Christian Aid's online petition asking the Chancellor to broker a debt relief deal for the poorest countries, thus supporting the most vulnerable during the corona pandemic. This would mean debt repayments of poor countries are cancelled during this crisis.

To donate online google Christian Aid Week 2020 and click on the Christian Aid website. Type in the amount you want to give in the "Other amount" box and then click on the now amended value in the "Donate" box

To find the coronavirus prayers and the online petition, click on Appeals on the menu bar at the top of the page, then on Coronavirus Emergency Appeal under "Emergencies" and scroll down to "Other ways you can help"

I know there has been a high death rate here in Britain but we are still in a far better situation than people in these poor countries if Coronavirus takes hold there. Please donate what you can afford and help Christian Aid, through its partner organisations, to help these vulnerable people.

Thank you.



## Can you work out the titles of 20 famous children's books?



### The Answers

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Goldilocks and the 3 bears       | 11. Little Red Riding Hood                |
| 2. The snail and the whale          | 12. Aliens love underpants                |
| 3. The very hungry caterpillar      | 13. Charlie and the chocolate factory     |
| 4. The tiger who came to tea        | 14. Hat in the hat                        |
| 5. A bear called Paddington         | 15. Matilda                               |
| 6. The rainbow fish                 | 16. Harry Potter (any of the book titles) |
| 7. Meg and Mog or Room on the broom | 17. Gangsta Granny                        |
| 8. We're going on a bear hunt       | 18. The lion, the witch and the wardrobe  |
| 9. The Gruffalo                     | 19. James and the giant peach             |
| 10. Elmer                           | 20. The BFG                               |

## PHOTO CHALLENGE

**We had some great photos for 'reflections' this week, but lets have some more.**

**Next week's theme is: SHADOWS**

**Be creative on your walks or around the house. Look for unusual and interesting shadows, or create shadows, let your imagination run wild!**

If a crisis is coming to stay  
 Getting worse, with each passing day  
 It's ever so easy  
 To get somewhat queasy  
 When normality passes away!

If the shelves are devoid of all rolls  
 And the internet's peopled by trolls  
 Don't tremble and fear,  
 Shed no frightened tear  
 For God the Almighty controls!

If your eyesight with tears is blurred  
 It may not quite yet have occurred  
 That God through the years  
 Has dried up our tears:  
 So see what it says in His Word:

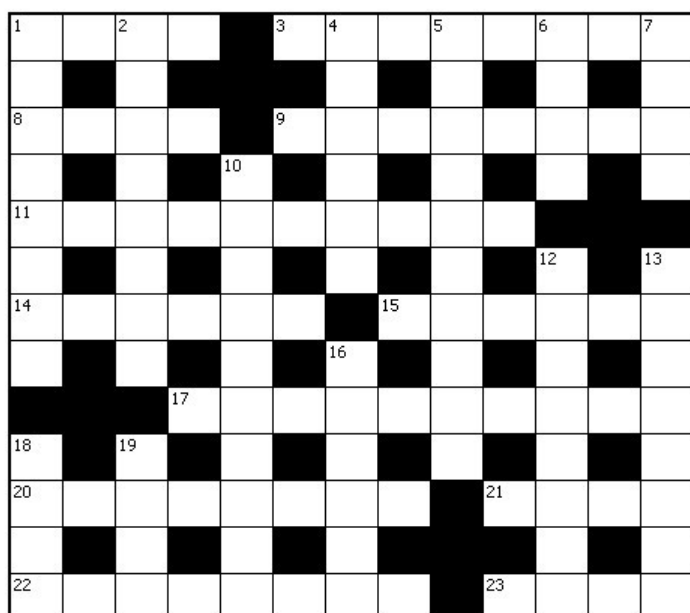
The people, surrounded by sand  
 En route to that old Promised Land  
 No food did they lack  
 For God had their back  
 He had their nutrition well planned!

Jesus cared, as the family cried  
 For the daughter of Jairus had died  
 He entered her room  
 Said 'Talitha kum'  
 And she rose and stood there by His side!

Just two of the Bible's great tales  
 That show us that God never fails  
 To come to our aid  
 If we've sought Him and prayed  
 When the devil with evil assails.

So do not be scared, but be smart –  
 No virus can tear us apart  
 From God up above  
 Who shows us such love  
 So be of good courage and heart!

Nigel Beeton



#### Across

- 1 See 23 Across  
 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)  
 8 Invalid (4)  
 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)  
 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)  
 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)  
 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)  
 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)  
 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)  
 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)  
 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)  
 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

#### Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)  
 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)  
 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)  
 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)  
 6 St Columba's burial place (4)  
 7 Swirling current of water (4)  
 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)  
 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was —, to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)  
 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)  
 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)  
 18 David Livingstone was one (4)  
 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

## Please send me your picture and news

The Rambling Rector has become very popular during our lockdown, especially amongst those who live alone, have no internet, and are isolating.

It's only possible through everyone's input, so I would really appreciate it if you would continue to send me pictures, stories, thoughts, reflections, news, so we can keep this valuable resource available.

I need to get copies in the mail by last post Wednesday as I understand Saturday delivery is to be suspended. Many thanks. Neil

#### Parish Office

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Web: [www.fabparish.org.uk](http://www.fabparish.org.uk)

Facebook: [finningleychurch](https://www.facebook.com/finningleychurch) [stsavioursauckley](https://www.facebook.com/stsavioursauckley)

Twitter: [@finningleycofe](https://twitter.com/finningleycofe) [@auckleychurch](https://twitter.com/auckleychurch)

We also have a parish WhatsApp group. If you would like to join please text Hannah Redeyoff on 07875 500555