



St Giles' Church, Bubbenhall: Newsletter for May 2020.

Rector: The Reverend David Wintle

Tel No: 02476 301283

Reader: Mrs Rosemary King Tel No: 01788 573067

Churchwarden: Mrs Jackie Lloyd Tel No: 02476 302836

From the Church Register:



31 March, in St. Giles' churchyard, the Funeral of
Angela Greenway.

May she rest in peace.



Thank you!

Very many thanks to the people who are so kindly printing and distributing the weekly pewsheets and monthly newsletters to neighbours who cannot receive them by email.

Coronavirus

The village emergency committee are organising a team of volunteers to support those who are self-isolating. Please contact one of the people below if you are willing to volunteer, or if you need to self-isolate and would like some support.

Bob Powell 02476 303433

Tony Cox 07803 782713

Jan Lucas 07847 015154

In the meanwhile, please follow government advice.

From the Rector, the Revd. David Wintle:

By order of our bishops all churches are closed, even for private prayer. However, I will continue to pray for you all at home at Morning and Evening prayer, and at other times too. If you would like to join me you can use the Daily Prayer app, or if that is a bit too formal for you, you might pause for a moment in the morning and offer the day to God, and then in the evening pause again to review the day and thank God for it.

You can use your own words, or the Lord's Prayer, or no words at all, but, however alone or cut off you may feel, you will know that you are joining in prayer with the whole Church.

Holy Communion will be celebrated in the benefice each Sunday, so the living and the dead will be prayed for at the altar, but it must for now be a private celebration.



You can use this prayer to make an act of spiritual communion, uniting yourself with Christ's offering of himself:

Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the church, there kneel down at the altar for me.

At the Offertory, take me to God and offer Him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift.

At the Consecration, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all.

During Holy Communion bring me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place.

Plead with Him, that through His sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved.

When the service ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.

TRADITIONAL: INCLUDED BY CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS IN HIS PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

Notice from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and from the Bishops of Coventry and Warwick.

Stay at home but continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England have urged everyone to follow the instructions given by the Prime Minister to stay in their homes in a national effort to limit the transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/church-england-close-all-church-buildings-help-prevent-spread-coronavirus/>

But they called on the Church to “continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable”. It follows the <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-to-the-nation-on-coronavirus-23-march-2020> announcement by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson of sweeping restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the virus.

It means all Church of England churches will close with immediate effect in line with the Government’s instructions. There will also be no Church weddings or baptisms. Funerals at the graveside or in crematoriums can still take place, but only in line with the Prime minister’s Statement.

In a joint statement the bishops said: “In the light of the Government’s measures, announced by the Prime Minister this evening, we urge everyone to follow the instructions given.

“We will give a fuller statement of advice as soon as possible. Let us continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable, and build our communities, even while separated.”



Safety warning for bishops social distancing while shopping?

Sunday, May 31: Pentecost (Whit Sunday)



Pentecost, Christmas and Easter are the three major festivals of the Church's Year. Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, is often called the birthday of the Church. Unfortunately, it is looking unlikely that we shall be able to celebrate this festival together in church, so please look out for the readings and further information in the pewsheets for Sunday 31.

Thursday, June 11: Corpus Christi

Give thanks for Our Lord's institution of Holy Communion.



Your Churchyard: a place for peace and reflection.



Thank you to those who are continuing to maintain the churchyard in the present crisis.
If you would like to help keep our churchyard looking beautiful, and providing a place for peaceful reflection for everyone, please contact Jackie Lloyd on 02476302836

Why not join the choir? Why not become a server?

At St Leonard's Church, Ryton, we have a **robed choir** which includes older children (aged about 8 and upwards) and teenagers: anyone whose son/daughter likes singing might consider encouraging them to join the choir when we are allowed to meet again.

New adult choir members always welcome too: If you enjoy singing and would like to join either the **robed choir** who sing for services twice a month, or the **augmented choir** (not robed) who sing for special events such as the Carol Service, please contact Barbara Marsh on 02476 304295. You do not have to be able to sight-read music- we are all learning!



At choir practice we work hard- but each practice only lasts one hour! And we have a brilliant director! Come and join us for fun and fellowship as we work together to produce a good sound.

We also offer the opportunity for children, young people and adults to train to become **altar servers** at the Parish Communion services at both Bubbenhall and Ryton churches.

Contact Rosemary on rosiking2963@gmail.com or 01788573067 about this.

Thought for the Month .



On Easter Day, we celebrated the fact that Jesus, having been dead and buried, came to life again three days later.

But that's all very well, you may say. That all happened 2000 years ago.

Jesus was raised from the dead. Very nice for Jesus, but, to put it crudely, what's in it for us?

I mean, we're not God, when we die, our bodies will rot or burn, God's not going to raise *us* up on the third day.

If that's all there is to Easter, well, it's wonderful enough, wonderful that Jesus, having suffered all we humans made him suffer, having died a horrible and entirely undeserved death, was raised to life again. And of course we're happy for him.

But luckily for us, that's not all there is to it. When Jesus is raised to new life, it's a new *order* of life. You can see that from the way his risen body seems to behave. It's a normal body that eats and breathes and bears wounds, but at the same time it's subtly different. People don't at first recognise him, and his risen body can apparently pass through locked doors and appear and disappear at will. It seems to be a body that is at home in a different dimension, a dimension that coexists alongside the everyday dimension we live out our lives in, a dimension that sometimes breaks through to us, in prayer, in Eucharist, in wonder, in beauty, in love: the dimension that's sometimes called eternal life.

When Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, Lazarus lived a few more years, perhaps only a few more days, before dying again, at the end of his earthly life. Died as we shall all die, as our loved ones have died.

But unlike Lazarus, Jesus is never going to die again. "I am with you always, even until the end of time", he promises his disciples just before the Ascension.

And through the centuries, generation after generation, men and women who believe in him have found that promise to be exactly and literally true.

And so we worship, not a dead hero, not even a hero that died and came to life again and then sailed away to heaven never to be seen again, but a living Lord who is always with us, to the end of time.

And that means that Easter is not just a unique event that happened 2000 years ago.

Easter is now.

Easter is always, to the end of time.

Christ is risen and is alive and on the loose in this world we live in.

With, and working through, the doctors and nurses and cleaners and carers and delivery drivers and refuse collectors and undertakers and soldiers and with the dying and dead in this terrible pandemic.

He is risen indeed, and is within us to the end of time. Alleluia.

A prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for living and loving in us and through us.

May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings.

Help us become a community that shares each other's burdens.

Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world.

Especially I pray today for.... .

Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God, Amen. (Richard Rohr, OFM)



Come and enjoy breakfast in **BUBBENHALL Village Hall!**



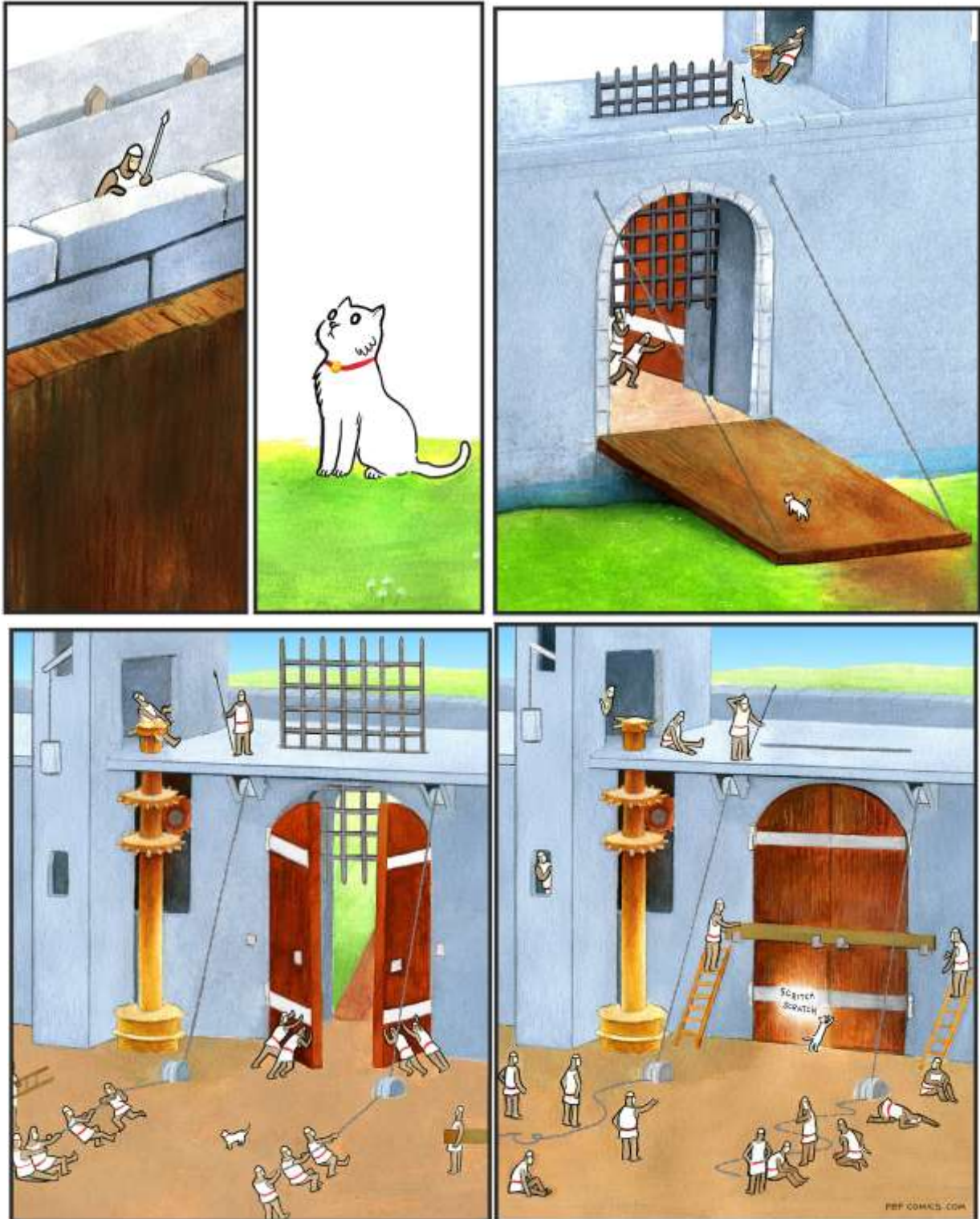
First Saturday in every month, from 9.00 – 11.00 a.m. Full English £5.00, or bacon/ sausage etc. batches, tea, coffee- priced per item.

Craig Greenway and Gill Green and team

hope to welcome you later in the year! Do come along and bring your friends!

Many thanks to the Craig, to Gill, and all those who are helping them in this venture.

During this time of enforced isolation, many people are consoled to have the company of their pet...



Used ink cartridges please!



We have registered with a scheme to recycle printer ink cartridges to raise funds for the church.

There is a recycling box at the back of church, so if anyone has any used cartridges they can use the box to send them free of charge. The church will receive £1 for each

cartridge, thus raising money for the church and helping to save the planet.

Churches are unfortunately shut during the current crisis: please don't throw your used cartridges in the bin, but hang on to them until we are up and running again.

Thank you very much to those who have already contributed used cartridges, but please note that we have now been informed that, unfortunately, used toner cartridges, also Brother, Epson and Kodak cartridges are not acceptable.

Cheer up! Here's a truly dreadful joke:

“Someone threw a bottle of Omega-3 capsules at me.”

“Sorry to hear that. Are you badly hurt?”

“Oh no, just super-fish-oil injuries.”

Some churches have been able to live-stream services....



May Day in the old Bubbenhall: memories from my childhood. **By Rosemary King.**

When I was a child in the 1940s and 1950s , one of the high points of the children's year was May Day, which was always held on the first Saturday in May. When in more recent times I asked Ralph Elliott if he remembered May Day, he replied: "It was magic!"

It all started on the Thursday and Friday before, when we children would go round the houses, asking if people could give us flowers for the Garland. We used to carry an old-fashioned wicker laundry basket, a child holding the handle at either end. I remember there were usually lots of powerfully scented wallflowers, which some of the older people called "Gillyflowers", marigolds, forgetmenots- whatever people could spare from their gardens. Then , on the Friday night, some grown-ups- I think it was probably Frank Glover- Geoff's and Mary's father- used the flowers to decorate the Garland, a structure of two willow wood hoops on top of a pole, which was kept from year to year in, I think, Frank Glover's shed or barn.

Saturday morning was normally cold and drizzly, as far as I remember. Undeterred, we children processed round the village carrying the Garland and calling at every house, singing our Mayday songs. I remember some of them, such as: "Welcome, welcome, lovely May", "The cuckoo is a pretty bird", "Dear little primrose". We were given small donations of money, which were shared out among the children , something like a quarter each to the King and Queen, the rest shared between all the children. Later, I understand some grownups were shocked that we were, as they put it, "begging", and I think this is one of the reasons why the children's May Day festivities were eventually stopped. The parents of that year's May King and Queen gave a party in the afternoon, for all the children in the village. Sandwiches-, usually egg or fish paste- little cakes, sometimes jelly and blancmange. Orange squash to drink. Party games organised by the Dads.

The year I was May Queen, Arthur (Snowy) Wilkins was my King. We held the party at Glebe Farm, thankful for the shed to shelter the party table from the unrelenting drizzle.

Here is a picture of May Day in the year that Brenda Sharp (Fred and Flo's daughter) and Alan Hancock (Cyril's son) were May Queen and King: the Garland is no longer in evidence, but it was obviously still a special day.



I'm not sure which year this was. Can someone enlighten me please?

Lent jars in aid of The Alzheimer's Society.

The present lockdown means that we can't receive your jars in church yet. Please could you keep them, and perhaps add to them, and let us have them when some semblance of normality returns? Any questions- please contact Gill Church on 07522868524 .

Thank you very much for your generosity.

Tailpiece: By St Theresa of Avila:



Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing frighten you.
Everything passes.
God alone remains.
With patience all things are
possible.
Whoever holds fast to God lacks
nothing.
God alone is enough.

You can hear this chanted in Theresa's original Spanish here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvfTVxgkVWpo>

Or watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goI-BoDD7CI>

Very soothing and peaceful!

Contributions for the June Newsletter by May 20th please.
Please encourage others to ask to receive the Newsletter by email: the email version contains more news than there is room for in the paper version, and sometimes cartoons, pictures and jokes. Just contact Rosemary on rosiking2963@gmail.com and ask to be added to the list. No charge!