



# The Link

*May 2020*



## Churches 4 All

**Whimble - Talaton  
Clyst Hydon - Clyst St Lawrence**



## **PASTORAL CARE TEAM**

The Pastoral Care Team has grown! Its members have been trained and are available to lend a listening ear, offer practical help and support, visit those who are housebound, ill, in hospital or bereaved, and to offer prayer.

**If you or someone you know would like a visit  
from a member of the Pastoral Care Team,  
please contact any of the following:**

Revd Ruth Heeley (758708)  
Margaret Burrough (822257) or  
Lorraine and Malcolm Crozier (822953) or  
Rebecca Hardy (822405) or  
David Rastall (822486)

If you have any articles that you think others might find helpful during these anxious times please let me have them. Hopefully it won't be too long before normal service is resumed!!

Dianne

Articles to [Dianne.goodwin@btinternet.com](mailto:Dianne.goodwin@btinternet.com)

### **From the Registers**

Funeral of David Woods; East Devon Crematorium.

Hello my friends,

I hope this email finds you in good health and good spirits; strangely Angie, the boys and I already seem to be starting to settle in to a new routine at home and as this new 'normal' starts to become a bit of a habit, new patterns of life are evolving which have become to feel slightly less alien, so much so that as I was typing this I was trying to remember exactly when we started our self-imposed quarantine. When this first happened life seemed very confusing and, even though we are getting along quite well, I am still missing all of you a great deal; telephone calls and emails are no substitute for a face to face conversation over a cup of tea.

However, in this new season I cannot help but think how blessed we are to live where we do; as a bit of a country boy I can be out in the lanes around our parishes within a few minutes of setting foot outside of our door and I have set myself the challenge of walking as many miles of the parish roads as I can before the lock down is over in my one daily exercise per day. I simply cannot imagine what it would be like to be stuck in a high rise flat or small inner-city terraced house during this challenging time. I am also grateful, perhaps for the first time ever, for the boys having online gaming with their friends; at least this allows them to 'meet their mates' every day. I am also struck by the incredible community spirit that has blossomed over the last few weeks in all of our parishes, there has been such an outpouring of care it is heart-warming. These observations and many others have confirmed for me how incredibly fortunate my family and I are to be living within the Churches4all Mission Community and how blessed I am in being your priest.

I have also come to reflect upon how often 'what we look for is what we see', in other words if we look for the beauty in our world we will find it and if we look for the blessings we will see them. Part of the discipline of being a priest is taking time for morning and evening prayer every day and I have come to understand, now even more than ever, how positive

I would highly recommend it, particularly at the moment and then to spend the last few minutes of every evening talking with God about how that day has played out. I would also like to invite you all to join me at 9:00am every morning to spend a couple of minutes praying specifically for all of those in the world struggling with this virus, those who are working to defeat it and those we have lost to it, you don't need to stop what you are doing and the prayers don't need to be out loud or articulate just heartfelt but each of us will know that out in our mission community many hearts will be reaching out to our Father at the same time; it is a powerful and hope-filled commitment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTW5QRWzI2k>

Don't forget to subscribe to our YouTube Channel so you don't miss anything we post, such as our Wednesday Wonderings. Here is this week's in case you missed it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWOJltStyUA&t=50s>

Also don't forget there is a telephone Morning Prayer service on Thursday Mornings run by Ian Spicer one of our Church Wardens from St Mary's in Whimble, which anyone is welcome to join in with (email me for details).

That's all for this Sunday, but please ring me if you want a chat or if you have any concerns.

God bless you.

M

Rev Marc Kerslake

Assistant Curate.

Churches4All Mission Community.

Whimble, Talaton, Clyst Hydon, Clyst St Lawrence.

## WHAT'S ON

Our Church of England churches are locked, including for private prayer, in an effort to help limit the transmission of the coronavirus COVID-19.

There will be no church weddings until further notice; funerals will not take place inside church buildings and the only baptisms will be emergency baptisms in a hospital or home.

It follows the announcement by the Prime Minister of wide-ranging restrictions as part of a national and international effort to help limit the spread of the disease.

“These are unprecedented times,” the bishops write.

“We are all having to get used to being the Church differently.

“It is not easy. However, our belonging to Christ has never been measured by the number of people in church on a Sunday morning (though we long for the day when this way of knowing Christ can return) but by the service we offer to others.

“Therefore, and despite these very harrowing restrictions, please do all that you can to minister to your people safely, especially to the sick, the vulnerable and the poor.”



## Are you proactive, organised and looking for a great opportunity to support your community?

We have a fantastic opportunity for an administrator for the Churches4All Mission Community. You will be supporting our four churches and the work we do in the villages of Whimple, Talaton, Cyst Hydon and Cyst St Lawrence.

We are looking for a great communicator, with good admin skills and a modern approach. You need to be computer savvy and able to embrace social media. You need to be organised, creative, discreet and passionate about community life and what the Church can do to support that.

The contract will be for a minimum 5 hours per week with flexible hours and able to work from home, with some occasional evening meetings. Pay: £10 per hour. If you would like more information do look at our website: [www.churches4all.org](http://www.churches4all.org). To apply just drop a CV with a covering letter to [gerri.turner2@gmail.com](mailto:gerri.turner2@gmail.com). Closing date for applications: 31st May 2020.

## CHRISTIAN AID GOES DIGITAL

Each year during May, many church-goers in Devon go out in their communities and collect money for Christian Aid Week. This year things will look a little bit different as Christian Aid Week 2020 will take place online.



Taking place from May 10th – 16th, supporters can participate in the week using Christian Aid’s online resources, such as daily quizzes and live-streamed worship. There is also guidance for individuals wishing to run their own virtual events and fundraisers, as well as an [online tool](#) for creating an ‘e-envelope’ to send to your friends and families to encourage them to join the fight against poverty and injustice around the world.

In this difficult time, churches across the Diocese of Exeter are invited to stand in solidarity with the world’s most vulnerable people in new and innovative ways.

Katrine Musgrave is Christian Aid’s churches engagement officer for Devon and Cornwall.

She said: “In recent weeks, we have been overwhelmed by the messages from our fundraising community, looking for guidance on how they can support us.

To explore ideas about how to celebrate Christian Aid Week digitally, you can send an [email](#), call their **churches support team on 01925 573769**, or visit [caweek.org/virtualresources](http://caweek.org/virtualresources)



# *PRAYER DIARY*

*May 2020*

## *Prayer for the month*

*Everything is dominated by Covid19 at the moment as all of our lives are affected in many different ways.*

*Inevitably, most of the prayers for May reflect the pandemic and all its associated concerns.*

*Let's pray that we can together get this under control and eventually see a relaxation in the strict distancing that we have to have at this time.*

*At the same time, let's be thankful that May is here with its abundance of flowers combined with what appears to be an increase in the number of birds.*

1st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray that countries would put aside national differences in order to work together on coronavirus.</li> </ul>
2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We pray for families who are worried about someone close to them who may be ill or in danger, and that they would have faith in the Lord's compassion.</li> </ul>
Sun 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for our new form of service, 'From the Curate's Study,' accessible through YouTube each Sunday while full church services are under suspension.</li> </ul>
4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for those who work in education as learning and exams are disrupted, requiring new ways of working and assessment.</li> </ul>
5th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for families that have experienced conflict and disagreement, that forgiveness may win the day.</li> </ul>
6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for NHS staff to have access to the right PPE to protect them as they deal with the coronavirus pandemic.</li> </ul>
7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for small businesses as they struggle financially and that promised access to help would be made easy for them and for their staff.</li> </ul>
8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On this 75th Anniversary of VE Day give thanks for those who gave their lives for our freedom.</li> </ul>
9th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for those for whom faith is important but have lost access to religious services during this crisis and for ministers and other faith leaders at a difficult time.</li> </ul>
Sun 10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.' (Psalm 34:8).</li> </ul>

11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for those children who normally receive free school meals and that they would continue to have access to a decent meal during this crisis.</li> </ul>
12th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for those who work in care homes at a very difficult time for them and that they would receive the help and equipment that they need.</li> </ul>
13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for our doctors at a very difficult time and that they would be protected and valued by us all.</li> </ul>
14th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for our police as they follow government guidelines on distancing and that they would be supported by the whole population.</li> </ul>
15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN International Day of Families, think about how families are coping during this crisis and pray for their futures.</li> </ul>
16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugees in camps around the world will be particularly vulnerable during this crisis, with added difficulty in getting medical aid and medicines, so we should pray for them, especially children.</li> </ul>
Sun 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes it's hard to sleep well; our minds are so active and it's difficult to settle so ask God for peaceful nights and mornings where we feel restored.</li> </ul>
18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for senior medical officers in government as they work out the best strategies for dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.</li> </ul>
19th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray that panic buying would stop; there clearly is no need for it as there is adequate food and medicine for us all.</li> </ul>
20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for our children and teenagers who already had many worries to face but now also have disruption to their education to cope with.</li> </ul>

21st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for those who work in supermarkets at a very busy time, in particular for their health and safety as they perform an essential task in a pressurised environment.</li> </ul>
22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for Hungary at a time when its president is assuming new powers beyond those that are acceptable in a democracy.</li> </ul>
23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for the world's humanitarian agencies at a time when it is difficult for them to operate effectively.</li> </ul>
Sun 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for those who suffer from anxiety and depression issues and for whom this crisis will inevitably have added to their problems.</li> </ul>
25th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for those who are homeless at this time and that they would continue to have access to help during the crisis.</li> </ul>
26th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for sports clubs and gyms as they suffer loss of revenue during the pandemic and that richer clubs would help smaller clubs to survive.</li> </ul>
27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for women who find the courage to come forward in cases of alleged sexual harassment and attacks and that justice would prevail.</li> </ul>
28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for those people who have been laid off from their jobs for the foreseeable future and who may be fearful for their long-term futures.</li> </ul>
29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for the success of the new Barnahus centre in Scotland where child victims of or witnesses to crime can talk to professionals in a safe and friendly area.</li> </ul>
30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for hope for the future at a time when we are faced with many problems; Covid 19, climate change, inequality around the world and many others.</li> </ul>
Sun 31st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe who still does not have her freedom in Iran, although she has been allowed out of prison temporarily, and pray for her family.</li> </ul>

# ROGATION

## **May would usually see some of churches celebrate the ancient Christian tradition of Rogation Days**

Introduced more than one thousand five hundred years ago these days were times of prayer and fasting leading up to Ascension; farmers often had their crops blessed by a priest at this time and many parishioners took part in the ceremony of beating the bounds, in which a procession of parishioners, led by the minister, churchwarden and choirboys, would proceed around the boundary of their parish and pray for its protection in the forthcoming year. Over recent years we have continued this 'walking and praying' from St Lawrence's in Clyst St Lawrence and for the last three years a group of us have held an annual prayer walk around all four parishes.

This year it seems even more important to pray for our parishes and those who live and work in them. We intend to circulate details of a prayer walk for each parish and a longer walk around all four parishes for the more adventurous. There will be a simple set of directions and prayers at set points which individuals or families can undertake at any time that suits them (obviously with due regard to social distancing guidelines). If you are not already on our regular email contact list and would like details please email me at:

marckerslake@hotmail.com

God bless.

Rev Marc.

# Providence in the Pandemic

**Drawing parallels between current and historical events is precarious. But if today's pandemic evokes the plagues of Egypt, the hardness of heart that inflicted Pharaoh is clearly still contagious. In some supermarkets, for instance, customers have deliberately coughed in the faces of hard-pressed staff and refused to keep a safe distance from other shoppers.**

Others have emulated behaviours depicted a few chapters later in the Exodus story. When God provides the Israelites with manna in the wilderness, some ignore God's instructions and gather more than they need. The result is that the next morning it's full of maggots.

Recent hoarding like this has been leaving needy people deprived. Supplies have been plentiful, but they've been stacked behind walls of fear erected by those who have more than enough.

Thankfully, many people and organisations have sought to serve the needy by emulating virtues lauded by the Israelite singer-songwriter David: contentment and trust. No stranger to danger and deprivation, he wrote that because the Lord was like a shepherd, he would lack nothing.

Providing such service safely is facilitated largely by electronic means of communication, through which no virus can be transmitted. It also helps that homes today, from where many of us are now compelled to work, are better supplied with light, heat, power, refrigeration, water, and sanitation than at any other time in history.

These things – food, supplies, technology, and utilities – are at our disposal for such a time as this due to the providence of God. That providence, which lay behind the daily supply of manna, has been expressed throughout history in human creativity and ingenuity, made productive and profitable through business. It is also expressed, with so many companies now in freefall, through state attempts to secure jobs.

Recognising such providence for what it really is – God at work through human work – can have transformative power, replacing a scarcity mentality with one of abundance. Manufacturers of cars and vacuum cleaners producing ventilators, and major multinationals assigning vast resources to assist struggling healthcare services and small businesses, are just two examples of what can happen when an abundance mind-set goes viral.

None of this downplays the hardship faced by many individuals, companies, and communities. But future historians could look back on this period as a time when society came together to address such hardship with the innovation and resourcefulness needed to serve the common good.

**Peter Heslam** is director of [Transforming Business](#) and of [Faith in Business](#), Cambridge.

This article was published by LICC

# Talaton Community Shop & Post Office



Local & Homemade Produce  
Newspapers & Magazines to Order  
Card payments accepted with no minimum limit

	SHOP	POST OFFICE
Monday	9am – 6pm	9am – 1pm 2pm – 5pm
Tuesday	9am – 6pm	
Wednesday	9am – 6pm	9am – 12.30pm
Thursday	9am – 6pm	
Friday	9am – 6pm	9am – 12.30pm
Saturday	9am – 1pm	
Sunday	10am – 12.00 noon	

Talaton Community Shop, Talaton, EX5 2RQ 01404 822084  
[www.talatonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.talatonparishcouncil.co.uk)