

ST MARGARET'S

Parish Church for Leiston-cum-Sizewell



MAY 2020

£1

From the Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich newsletter dated 16.04.20. I'm sure many of you remember with thanksgiving John Dennis and his time as our Bishop. Editor

Bishop John Dennis

Dear Brothers and Sisters

It is with great sadness that I write to say that Bishop John Dennis died peacefully on Monday night, suffering from Covid 19. I understand he had been unwell and the virus was too much for his body to bear.

Bishop John was Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich from 1986-1996 and I know is remembered by many with great fondness. He ordained the first women priests in this diocese and was known for his gentle and wise care. He pioneered ordained local ministry with the same vision that we have "rediscovered" for our current auxiliary ordination pathway. I had the privilege of being his successor twice – I got to know him first when I was vicar of the Isle of Dogs where he was three vicars before me, just as he was three bishops before me here. About five years ago he was interviewed on camera at his local church in Winchester, and you may want to watch him here <https://youtu.be/Md5PH-YZIJq>

Sadly, his wife Dorothy died just four weeks ago, and so the family is doubly grieving. I have sent condolences from the Diocese to their sons John and Peter (Hugh) Dennis and their families.

May Dorothy and John rest in peace and rise in glory.



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Church Wardens:

Mrs Pat Carter: 42 Haylings Road, Leiston T.831852

One Vacancy

PCC Treasurer: Mrs Sandra Harle: 4 Lime Tree Avenue, Leiston T. 833578

PCC Secretary: Mrs Pat Carter, 42 Haylings Road, Leiston T.831852

'JAM' (Jesus & Me) Sunday School Leader: Mrs Sandra Ellis T.832168

Organist & Choir Master: Mr Matthew Merrett

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Two Vacancies

Resident Retired Priests:

Reverend Richard Ellis: 9 Kings Road, Leiston T.832168

Reverend Pauline Florance: 1 Woodlands, Leiston T.768124

Reverend Jim Florance: 1 Woodlands, Leiston T.768124

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Ascended ...

As I write this message in April the UK Government have just announced a further three weeks of 'lockdown'. In the news are items every day about those who have died and the care and risks taken by support services and suppliers. These can be sombre and difficult messages to read and hear.

In the midst of these messages is that of the Risen Christ. Each year we recall the accounts of Jesus Christ breaking the bonds of death, of how God is greater than time and our earthly life. The Gospel writers recall the events of the appearances of the Risen Jesus; to Mary outside the tomb, with the walkers going to Emmaus, with the disciples at the lakeside, and many more. Jesus said that he would only be with them for a short time, to show them how faith in God is universal and greater than they ever imagined, and that they could not hold him from being with God. On 21st May we celebrate Ascension Day, we read the accounts of the final moments when the followers of Jesus physically saw Jesus and how he was drawn to God. This is the eternal state for God. Our earthly life is brief and wonderful and yet it is only part of God's everlasting life. The ascension of Christ gives us a glimpse of that state, that being, with God.

When I lead a funeral service, I am always aware of how limited are my words, they only convey some of the thoughts and prayers of those who mourn and of the hope and love that is given by God. Inwardly I feel inadequate, unable to fully express about how the person who has died is now wrapped in the greatness of God, maybe it is because I can't fully comprehend. Therefore, I have to look around to see small fragments of the greatness and wonder of God. It may be in the caring action of friend and neighbour, or of seeing afresh the beauty of a flower, whatever sparks that moment to then hold on to it and allow it to bring me to a greater awareness of God and then recall that awareness during a difficult time.

I hope that during this time you may store up those moments of grace and wonder, some people record these in journals, notebooks, pictures or take photographs. Then, if you have a day when all seems sombre, to open that moment and be assured of God's presence.

May you be blessed during this season of Easter and may we all be a blessing to our world.

Rev Richard Finch

Pondering Prayer

God said to Elijah:

“Stand upon the mount before the Lord.” And behold the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains..... but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. (*1 Kings 19:11,12*)

The Lord God was in the silence and that is where Elijah found him. In these straightened times has silence become something of a way of life or do you try and drown out the quiet of self-isolating and stay at home orders with radio, TV, facebook or facetime. Does the silence frighten or depress, or does it enlighten and allow you to breath more easily, to open your mind to other things; to listen for the sounds of nature, a cool breeze blowing through the trees, birdsong. Are there perhaps sounds that you hear that you never noticed before? Listening to the silence is relaxing. It is a chance to open the mind, to consider and think about things you have not got round to before but always intended to. It is also where we find God, where we can open our minds and hearts to think about Him and where He is in the current world pandemic, and importantly where He is in each of our lives.

Many years ago when I had the occasional holiday it would be alone. I would drive to Yorkshire (God’s own country say some), or the Lake District. I would find a room somewhere to stay for a few days and after breakfast on the first morning and all subsequent mornings I would pack a shoulder bag with chocolate and cheese, a map, a compass and a whistle, and just walk wherever the fancy took me. To me they were always walks with God. I rarely met other walkers but the scenery, the birds, the sunshine I never felt alone. That is a form of prayer, better understood perhaps as meditation. Meditating on nature, God’s creation.

Since the churches closed you may have received missives from the vicar to make up for the absence of your Sunday church, during Eastertide. In them were relevant artworks of a Biblical scene. With suggestions on how to look at and appreciate the artists work and how he got so much of a story into one painting. If you did spend time looking at that picture and thinking about it you were meditating. Without realising it perhaps you were also listening to God. He is in the silence and in the meditation, in the prayer.

If you are confined in your home, hopefully with a garden you can walk round for exercise use the walk as time of prayer, listen to the silence of nature and the natural sounds, and listen for the voice of our Lord as he makes himself heard in the silence and enters your thoughts, listens to your questions, your meditations, your concerns and little by little answers will come.

There is nothing wrong with watching TV or listening to the radio etc. They can also be relaxing and informative breaking up the monotony of being confined. But please also allow some time of quiet to listen to the silence. You may be surprised at what you hear.

Br.Christian

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH TOWER LIGHTS UP



During April the lighting of the Church Tower was sponsored on:

- 5 April – Joan and Ray Saunders. Wedding Anniversary
05.04.47 Now together forever.
With love from all the family
- 7 April – In loving memory of Jackie Mann
- 12 April – In memory of Revd. Malcolm Pickering
- 15 April – Remembering my dear sister Pauline Graczyk
on her birthday. Love Joan
- 22 April – In loving memory of Jason, a year without you
Sweetheart xx Mum

24 April – To celebrate our 10th Wedding Anniversary Emma and David Jameson

24 April – Remembering my beloved husband Peter who passed away on this day.
Love always, Joan

26 April – In memory of Judy Foster

**If you would like to mark a special occasion by sponsoring the lighting of the Church Tower for a donation of £5 per day, please write the details in the diary provided in church, then place the completed payment envelope in the wall safe. Many thanks.*

**If you would like to arrange to light the tower please contact Sandra Harle (contact details page 2)*

The dilemmas of an artist

I have kept occasional journals for over forty years. They started as just a way to record holidays and special events. For the last twenty or so years I have expanded their scope to include autobiographical entries, that may some day be of interest to my children.

This is an extract from my journal as we face self isolation during the Covid 19 pandemic. "Thursday 16th April 2020 32nd day of self isolation!"

The garden is looking beautiful with forget-me-not in flower, creating a blue haze between the sword-like leaves of various tulips. No roses yet but plenty of fresh green foliage and the promise of lots of colour to comeand this warm weather to enjoy it all. I count myself very lucky to have this space while the world works its way out of this current crisis. (Just finishing off the last piece of Simnel cake with a coffee, as I write.)

So much free time to fill. Some of us are luckier than others. We are surrounded by open countryside that is still accessible and many have the companionship of our partners; parents are getting to spend more time with their children. Perhaps new bonds of understanding will be forged, getting to spend so much time together in a confined space. Our powers of tolerance are being tested and so too our ability to entertain ourselves.

Even in my retirement I have work commitments that fill most of four days out of seven. With self isolation all that has ceased.

So, what am I doing with all this extra time? Again I consider myself fortunate because I can paint and draw. By all accounts we are all being encouraged to be more creative.

Inspiration is something that does not come all the time. I have always admired artists who never seem to be without it; those artists, for example, who set themselves the challenge of painting a picture every day, however simple. With all this time on my hands there is really no excuse not to attempt something like this.

Artists work in many different ways. I had joined one of Jenny's life drawing classes. Each 'lesson', on the Monday of each week, is a great way to discipline oneself to "do a drawing". Setting a fixed time each day for such an activity is another way to ensure that the creative juices can be encouraged to run.

I am determined to make sure I spend as much time as possible drawing and painting during this period. BUT- What to paint? What inspires me? A still-life, perhaps? OK!

So I fixed upon painting a still-life and started to search around for suitable 'characters' to put on the 'stage'. My initial attempts were not that successful but by a process of elimination the ideas began to gel. Getting frustrated, I sat down at my dining-room table. The sun comes in from the front in the afternoon and as I sat, the table was bathed in light, slightly diffused by the curtains. There it was in front of me, an '*objet trouvé*' still-life: the dried thistle in a handmade vase, candles of various lengths in the candle sticks. I hardly had to make any adjustments to make a perfect picture. (Matter of opinion)

So first the drawing...does my drawing have a focus (the point to which the eye is drawn)? are the light and dark balanced? ...the colours complementary?

I am not exactly completing a painting a day but I am working on a painting each day.

With the sunny weather and warmth I transferred my attention to a 'portrait' of the garden as it is at the moment, looking towards the house from the deck with sunlight catching the metal table and chairs outside the kitchen.

Finished this one today. MMM. So-so! Parts of it I'm pleased with. Needs work"

I enclose photos of work so far on both pictures. I am sure that I will continue to work on them until I am fully satisfied. Vaughan





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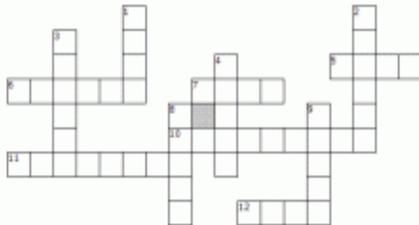
Leiston, Saxmundham & District

Welcome to 'your page' Activities to enjoy!

Filled with the Holy Spirit

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)



ACROSS

5. Make something to be full
6. To be totally surprised
7. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
10. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles
11. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country
12. A destructive burning

DOWN

1. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree
2. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
3. The place where God lives
4. Something that can be heard
8. To say words, to use the voice
9. A building which people live in

HEAVEN	SPIRIT	FIRE	HOLY
WIND	PENTECOST	LANGUAGE	SPEAK
SOUND	FILL	HOUSE	AMAZED

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3

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CDORW

6 7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 4

And a floral wordsearch for the adults at a time when we would have held our Flower Festival

Festival of Flowers



T E O C F M M B Y V T X A T O
U S O Z O K A C D E P E O N Y
L O P A X A E R L I D A P V G
I R Q T G B Z O I A H O N N B
P K H X L P I G F G P C O S S
K F Q X O V U F J P O V R U Y
Y S N P V F O A Y E T L L O H
H H K Z E D T I Y S I A D R A
T T Y X I W B L W X I S N X O
A P L L A Y J H A Z I D O D O
T A F D I Y E A V R M M V F M
H J C O G L B D I P U O L R A
X C A R N A T I O N M K J H K
A Y S A R S N M V U R Y V X L
A R E B R E G T M Z F Q H F T

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DAHLIA
DAISY
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TO ALL READERS –

There is an intention to produce a magazine each month
but that cannot happen without some input from YOU. Do
you have a funny story or a good recipe you would like to
share, perhaps an interesting place you have visited. If so,
please send it to me, contact details on page 2.

May 2020 - Our flower festival is in May so the Saint we look at this month is Saint Dorothy (Dorothea) and she is depicted holding a basket of flowers. Her feast day is 6th February and she is patron to horticulture and gardeners.

According to legend Dorothy lived in the 3rd century in Caesarea in Cappadocia, who when she refused to sacrifice to the gods during Emperor Diocletian's persecution of the Christians, was tortured by the governor and ordered executed. On the way to the place of execution, she met a young lawyer, Theophilus, who mockingly asked her to send him fruits from "the garden" she had joyously announced she would soon be in. When she knelt for her execution, she prayed, and an angel, or mysterious child, with a basket of three roses and three apples, which she sent to Theophilus, telling him she would meet him in the garden. The year after she was martyred, in the dead of winter, the child brought the apples and roses to Theophilus, and he converted to Christianity and later was martyred.



For this reason, St. Dorothy's attribute is a basket of roses and apples. Sometimes the basket is replaced by her own garment and the apples are omitted. St. Dorothy is almost always pictured with blond hair. As with many other virgin saints, her dress often has a scoop neckline.

In the Time of Pandemic

by Kitty O'Meara

And the people stayed home.

And they read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still.

And they listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

© Catherine M. O'Meara <https://the-daily-round.com/>

This poem was published by Kitty on her blog on 16th March 2020. Kitty has very kindly given her permission for it to appear in our magazine. She requested that the link to her blog site is included.

MAY



As I walk round the garden seeing all the shrubs, cherry trees, fresh green leaves on the trees, bluebells and primroses I think what a lovely month May is, everything is fresh and new. Nature is still working but then I think of all the ill people fighting for their lives and the wonderful work Nurses, Doctors and staff are doing to keep them alive, so they can see the spring again. This virus is like a horror film, can't believe it's happening. It's wonderful to think how people are helping to look after neighbours who have had to isolate due to health issues.

We clap our hands once a week to everyone who is helping to do this, by shopping, collecting prescriptions etc, once this is all over we must continue to show our thanks more often. The NHS does a wonderful job all the time, look how they coped last year and many times with people waiting in corridors waiting to be seen. It made the news and then was forgotten. The Easter weather was lovely but very hard this year not to be able to meet up with family and friends and grandchildren as these times are so precious, but we have the telephone and all these new gadgets where family and friends can see each other. Bill has an iPad and can see our son, daughter and families. But we aren't that good at using them – I keep getting told off. Mother, move the camera, we don't want to talk to your nostrils!

On this light note

Keep well

Keep safe

Keep faith your prayers will be heard

Margaret Clarke

HELLO OUT THERE

Every morning I wake up and think it is all a dream. Must be that cheese I ate last night, or the extra glass of red just to finish the bottle. But it isn't a dream - it's a reality which has shaken us all and caused us to radically change our way of life. I hope you are being brave and adjusting to it, trusting that it will soon be over and we can go back to whatever new reality awaits us.

We are getting used to the new ways now, but it was very strange at first. All the things we took for granted were denied us. Walking around town, the doors of almost all our favourite shops were shut, bearing only a sheet of white A4 paper carrying a melancholy message. We could not go to the pub, to the coffee shop, to the hairdressers or the restaurants. We could not go for a ride in the country on the bus or train unless we had a cast-iron reason to do so. Even some of the shops which were allowed to stay open soon decided not to, although I cannot say that I blame them with the wicked virus potentially roaming the streets.

What was it about? Is it nature getting its own back on us for the dreadful way we treat it? Is it God teaching us a lesson for the sins of mankind? Have we somehow brought it on ourselves because we have got too big for our boots? There are clever people working out the answers and we all look forward to hearing what they come up with.

For us, of course, one of the greatest deprivations is not being able to meet at Church, especially at the Easter season when we should be getting together for special services to celebrate the resurrection. But there are no Church bells ringing, no big wooden doors flung open to welcome us, no hugs and handshakes, no coffee and chat after the service. And I miss it all, very painfully. I sometimes lie awake in the middle of the night, going round the congregation in my mind and saying hello to each person. It keeps me connected to you until the time when I can say hello to you for real.

Is there a bright side to all this, some consolation to keep us cheerful? Yes, there is - several actually. Every day we hear of new heroes, whether they be doctors and nurses or the politicians who have the unenviable task of managing this complicated and unprecedented situation. And I expect every one of us can point to some very local heroes - the people who deliver our papers, post and milk, who staff the shops which are open, who fetch and carry supplies for those who

cannot leave their homes. In our Church community I can think of three heroes - Richard for his cheery messages and bible and prayer reading lists, Pat for keeping this lovely magazine going and for all the Churchy things she is no doubt doing behind the scenes, and Sandra for keeping the all-important finances ticking over.

And if this dreadful plague had to happen, it has at least chosen a time of year when cheerful things are going on around us. Jenny and I have to go out each morning to exercise ourselves and our collie dogs, and there can seldom have been such a glorious springtime. Warm days, primroses everywhere, more bees and butterflies than I've seen for years, summer birds coming in (first nightingale on Easter Saturday, first cuckoo on Easter Day, swallows and swifts to look forward to). And time to sit or work in the garden without feeling that we should be out doing something or getting more unnecessary shopping in!

We must be patient, be careful, and try to stay well. Life, even within our restricted parameters, is good and full of many blessings. And once we emerge from our confinement everything will feel new, and we will value our daily routines even more than we did before. I'm looking forward to the day when we can all meet again at St Margaret's and sing and shout our relief at our safe deliverance. See you there!

Peter Roberts

.....

THE PLUS SIDE OF THE LOCKDOWN



My granddaughter, Chloe, modelling her new green cardigan. I have taken the opportunity to complete some projects which have been sitting unfinished for some time. This is probably the oldest of the lot. I started this cardigan for Chloe's cousin, Ryan when he was about eighteen months old. Now the **CONFESSION** Ryan celebrates his twelfth birthday at the end of April this year.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH FAMILY

INTERCESSION PRAYERS FOR MAY 2020

Dear Friends

May's magazine continues to focus on monthly prayer time, with the St Margaret's Church family group for this month as shown below. There are three family groups with each one appearing in the magazine every three months. However, you remain in our thoughts and prayers always.

If you would like to be included in our family monthly prayers, or have any queries please email stmargaretsleiston@gmail.com. If you feel you would prefer to be remembered in a particular month then please let us know. Also, if you have a specific need for additional prayer time then please let us know and we will add you to our 'special prayers' section.

In our Church Family Prayers

Martin Phillips-Last	Bruce & Phyllis Songer
Simon, Sheena, Tom & Matt Merrett	Stephen & Gail Southgate
Sheila Mckinnon, David & Midge Mckinnon	Naomi Kerans
Phil, Sue, Joshua, Charlotte, Connie & Greg Watson	John & Sue Last
David & Cindy Fittsell	Helen Rivett
Emma Fittsell	Judith & Mike Stigwood
Paul, Alexander, Aidan, Cory & Amyleigh Fittsell	Maureen Fox
Jonathan, Kathryn & Joshua Williams	Wayne, Ben & Niamh Fox
Mike & Lesley Cassie	Fi Long
Vi Matthews	Allison King
Stephanie Luckhurst	Luke, Asha & Jai Mewett
Joan Whale	Clare & Kane Hambridge
Paul Espindola	Peter & Jenefer Roberts
Ann & Peter Essex	Charles & Pauline Stride
Mary Murphy	Steve, Christine & Nathan James
Jo Tozer	Derek & Sheila Stiff
Sue, Dale, Ewan & Cameron Threadkell	Eileen Free
Frank & Joan Huxley	Philip, Ian & Susan Huxley
	Hannah, Stuart & Teddy Tilbrook
	Lynn and Dave Blake, Gemma, Craig, Florence and Arthur

Special Prayers

Hilda

Suzi



Funerals

Wednesday 1 April 2020

Thelma Edith Sanders

Wednesday 8 April 2020

Magdalene Ruth (Magda) Chandler

JASON'S TREE



After Jason's funeral when I had his ashes returned I had asked for some to be kept separately. These I took to Potsford Farm where he worked and loved to be. His co-workers had asked for a tree to be planted and a seat to be put around it so they could go and talk to him. Wayne and I went there for the little ceremony of planting and the small amount of ashes was planted with it. Now a year later the tree is beginning to flower. It's going to be beautiful. Nathan sent me a photo.

Maureen Fox

St Margaret of Antioch



Parish Church of Leiston-cum-Sizewell
Church Road, Leiston, Suffolk IP16 4HG

NOTICE: Items for June's magazine

Please note that all articles, adverts etc. will need to be submitted to Pat Carter by **18 May** for inclusion in the June Magazine. Thank you.

Email: pm42carter@gmail.com

The Parish Magazine is available from St Margaret's Church. Delivery can be arranged.

Keep up to date with all Church Events
By visiting our own website

www.stmargaretschurchleiston.onesuffolk.net

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