

Good News Parish Magazine

November 2020

High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of Eastling, Otterden, Stalisfield and Throwley

for current and past editions go to: <http://www.goodnews.rf.gd>

Remembering our loved ones

There is a "Service" at

St Mary, Teynham on 1st November

We normally hold a remembrance service where any family who have suffered a death of a loved one in the past year, receives an invitation to come and light a candle. As this is usually very well attended due to the restrictions, it is not possible. Instead we are opening Teynham Church between 2pm — 4pm, where anyone can come and light a candle in remembrance of a loved one and we will have hymns played and the names will be read out during these two hours. If anyone is going to attend and wants to add a name please ask them to contact

admin@kingsdowncreekside.co.uk

HIGH DOWNS REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

THROWLEY CHURCH

10.45AM

AT THE WEST DOOR

Representatives from our three villages will read the names commemorated from their own village and the Choir will sing the hymns.

Please remember social distancing and wear a face covering when entering the church.

Churches Open for Private Prayer

Throwley and Eastling church buildings will continue to be open for private prayer.

**St Michael and All Angels,
Throwley
Wednesdays and Sundays
10am till dusk**

**St Mary, Eastling
Tuesdays, Thursdays
and Sundays
11am - 2pm**



Remembering

We are at that time of year of remembering. We could say that November brings that remembering.

Firstly November 1st is All Saints Day in the life of the Church when we remember the saints that have gone before us - and that means all those who have gone before us in the faith. All Saints Day has that character of thankfulness to the remembering; thankfulness for the good examples that those who have gone before us.

Less than a week after we have 5th November:

*Remember, remember the fifth of
November,
Gunpowder treason and plot.
We see no reason
Why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!*

So the poem we might have learnt as children goes. Sadly this year we won't be 'remembering' with the big firework events that take place in some of our villages in the Parish.

Prayer Pointers November 2020



Mondays - Remembering those who have helped us in our Christian lives.

Tuesdays - Remembering to ask the Holy Spirit for help when we need it.

Wednesdays - Remembering those we have loved and lost.

Thursdays - Remembering those who care for us when we are ill.

Fridays - Remembering those who have fought for our freedom.

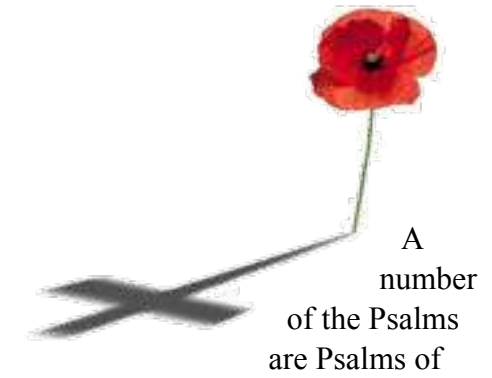
Saturdays - Remembering to help those in need.

Sundays - Remembering to Praise and thank God for all he has done for us.

Three days later is Remembrance Sunday this year when we continue to remember those who have died in wars since 1914, particularly of course the two world wars. This year, as in recent years, our Remembrance Service for High Downs - Eastling, Stalisfield and Throwley - will be in Throwley Church, starting outside and then moving into the Church. We will be taking all the precautions needed at this time but we will remember together.

Remembering might be about a personal loss. For myself we are at that stage, since my mother's death in June, of beginning to clear the house and we have found some letters written to my Father when he was 14 years old by his eldest brother whilst he was on Service in Africa in 1944. The letters are really moving and I never knew they existed until now. One of the reasons is because they are from Lance Corporal S H Lillicrap - my uncle had the same initials as me and we share the same middle name. They are particularly poignant as my uncle died in the 1953 flu epidemic, 5 years before I was born. A different sort of remembering.

It has made me reflect on the importance of remembering.



A number of the Psalms are Psalms of history where the Psalmist reminds his listeners of all that God has done for his people. He calls them to remember the mighty blessings of God. For example Psalm 105 starts with these words before going on through the history of God's people:
*Give praise to the LORD,
proclaim his name;
make known among the nations
what he has done.*

This is about remembering the past to point to the present and to the future; to remember God and his blessings to His people so as to know that He will continue to interact with his people.

We remember on Remembrance Sunday those who gave up so much for us to be able to live in peace so that we continue to seek the peace they fought for.

We remember all that God has done for us so that we are reminded that he continues to bless and act today. Peace be with you.

Revd. Steve Lillicrap

Safe Spaces launches to offer support to survivors

A new service providing vital support for survivors of church-related abuse has recently become operational. [Safe Spaces](#), commissioned by the Anglican and Catholic Churches in England and Wales, is to be run by Victim Support, a national charity with a track record of providing survivor support. safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England, Church in Wales or the Catholic Church of England and Wales. Safe Spaces comprises a team of trained support advocates, who have undergone specialist training in supporting survivors of sexual violence and who have received additional specific training in how the churches respond to abuse cases, and the particular issues affecting people who have had or still have, a relationship with the church. The service is for those who may have experienced any form of abuse, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, psychological abuse (including spiritual abuse), domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour.

The service will run for an initial two years, with a view to extending this. Call 0300 303 1056 . It has been paid for by the Catholic and Anglican churches involved, supported by a grant from Allchurches Trust.

How You Can Help Our Village Hall

Stalisfield Village Hall Trust

is now a registered charity through Amazon Smile and
Give as you Live

Hello everyone, as you can imagine it is a little difficult to keep Stalisfield Hall at the front of our minds as we are unable to run community events during these current issues. However it does also make it very difficult to raise money as well.

I'm sure I'm not the only person using online shops more and here are a couple of ways that you can raise money for the hall without additional cost to you.

Give As You Live raises money for Stalisfield Village Hall Trust through many online retailers - just register to use Stalisfield Village Hall Trust as your chosen charity (you will only have to do this once).

Amazon Smile - any time you buy through Amazon you can use login to Amazon Smile, select Stalisfield Village Hall Trust as your chosen charity (you only have to do this once) and automatically we will receive donations on your purchases.

If you need help setting up either of the above then please let us know - we will be happy to help!

Tracy Dove 0771 736 7936

tracy@stalisfieldvillagehall.co.uk



To Wish

By Audrey Keen

It seems senseless at the time to wish
That someone passed would come
again

To walk into a room and wave
Or smile behind a window pane.

But wait!

For if we see them in our mind
In time it's true that we will find
Their image offers some relief
To comfort us here in our grief.

They pass on love that we can feel
Their spirit is alive and real.

Their smile, their warmth, their
presence stays

And comforts us -

Today

Tomorrow

and Always.

The Plough Inn, Stalisfield

It's that time of year again -

The launching our Christmas day menu!!!



Under these current conditions it has been hard for us to plan what we are doing so we have decided to come up with two options as we don't know if social distancing will be lifted. If it isn't, as you can imagine, doing half the amount of covers on Christmas day would not be financially viable for us.

So, if social distancing is no more, we will be offering our usual eat in menu, however, in the more likely scenario of continued distancing we will be offering a takeaway hamper menu where all the work is done for you and depending on your requirements can even be ready to go on Christmas day.

When you book you will be asked for a non-refundable £10 per person deposit – however if social distancing is still in place and we can only offer a takeaway service then we will refund this if you do not wish to proceed with the takeaway option. (Complicated I know; but in the 'new normal' lots of things seem to be any queries give us a call.) Our prices will also be reduced reflecting the change of service.

We would also like to know if anyone would be thinking about joining us for their usual Christmas day beverage, we understand that it's some time away so there is no urgency, we are just trying to plan and provide you all the best service we can in these uncertain times.

Good news - Boxing Day we will be back to normal – albeit the new normal!

Marianne, Richard & Nathan!

Please call 01795 890256 or
email info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk

<https://theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk>

Keep up to date by following us on **Facebook, Twitter or Instagram**



Walking with God

When lockdown began, I was still relatively new in my current job and found life was getting difficult; like many people across the country. I had to stop swimming, work from home and could not go to church. I know I am an emotional eater and with the decrease in exercise and working close to the kitchen it is no surprise that I started gaining weight.

To begin with I ignored it (who would not) then my mental health started being affected by the lockdown and I started feeling low and depressed and the last straw was when in May I stepped on the scales and was horrified at what they said!

I sought a telephone consultation with my GP and explained how I felt and what I weighed and her first response was anti-depressants. That would have been the easy option but I knew it was not the answer.

I needed to lose weight to feel good about myself again and I asked her for help with that. Those of you who know me know that I lost a lot of weight before with the help of a slimming club but of course they had stopped also. The GP offered to refer me to a weight loss clinic, even though they were not meeting physically I would get support and someone to talk to, to help me tackle my weight and my issue with emotional eating.

I decided to start walking. So, I got up earlier each day and would walk 2 miles before breakfast and I counted my calories! I upped the walking to twice a day and some days even three times; I try to do between 5 and 6 miles a day. We are so privileged to live in the most beautiful part of the country with wonderful countryside and many varying walks.

How has the walking helped me?

Well it has helped me in more ways than I ever imagined, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Physically I have lost over 13kg (2 stone) I have lost a total of 30 cm (nearly 12 inches) in total, so my body must be getting healthier, it must be improving my internal organs and my body in general.

Emotionally and mentally Walking raises my endorphins and this makes me feel good, it starts my day off as I can get rid of the cobwebs that have amassed during my sleep and at the end of the day I can put my working day behind me and enjoy the evening with my family. Losing the weight has made me feel better about myself.

Spiritually I use this time to enjoy God's creation. I have seen the seasons change, seen the animals at work, the colours strewn beautifully across the sky. I also use this time to speak to God, to pray. We live such busy lives that sometimes we don't find the time we should, to be with God. So, God walks with me, I talk to him, thank him for the good in my life, pray for my loved ones, our village, our churches, and myself. I also use this time to listen, to reflect, to feel at peace with God. I feel closer to God.

To enable me to continue my walks I have bought myself a waterproof jacket. So, if you see someone wearing a red jacket who appears to be talking to herself, it isn't Father Christmas it is me taking my daily walk with God.

Caroline Ramshaw



Living God,

whose voice brings creation to life,
Tune our hearts to receive your Word;
Open our eyes to notice your Spirit's
action in our fields of vision;

Renew our minds, that we might learn
your ways.

Grant us grace to let go and courage
to start anew,

As we bear witness to your Word
within your wondrous world.

Amen

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Eastling Primary School News

Eastling Primary School has had a wonderful and busy start to the year. Unfortunately there are some of our normal school events which we are currently unable to hold due to the restrictions. The school has been amazing at making adjustments to ensure our children have a full and rich curriculum and learning experiences. We are extremely fortunate to have two school minibuses which means that we are still able to have school trips.

On Friday 25th September as planned the whole school had an outdoor learning day. All the classes participated in the cooking organised by 'Wild Classrooms'. The children in Acorn class made bird feeders, autumn sun catchers, went on a nature walk around Eastling and made a friendship web. Silver Birch class did tie dying, walked to the woods - where they did some describing work for their English learning and made sculptures in the style of Andrew Goldsworthy. Willow class planted seasonal fruit and vegetables in their

planters. They decorated pebbles as insects to put into the planters and made bee hotels. Oak class made Greek Laurel Reef headbands, played Ancient Greek Games and created wild art.

On Friday 9th October Silver Birch visited Faversham Gunpowder works and Faversham Creek as part of their learning on the local area. They were learning about the history of industry in Faversham.

A team from Oak class took part in a virtual football challenge organised by the school's sports partnership.

Willow class had a Stone Age Day on Friday 16th October. They started the day by walking to the woods to find suitable sticks. On their journey to the woods the children identified different species of trees and hedgerow. Back at school they used potato peelers to peel the sticks and used them to cook fish. They seasoned and cooked the fish over an open fire, made vegetable kebabs and cooked them on the hot stones. They also

made Stone Age flatbreads.

Acorn class are enjoying their weekly nature walks. On Tuesday 20th October Acorn class visited Sevington Pumpkin Farm. The children had a wonderful visit with their first time going in the school minibuses. They brought pumpkins back to school to carve and decorate ready for the annual Eastling Primary School pumpkin carving competition.

On Tuesday 20th October a team from Willow and Oak class took part in their first 'The Little Debate' against Alexander McLeod Primary School in Greenwich. The motion was: The school summer holidays should be longer than six weeks. Our team were opposed to the motion and won. The team had been working all term with Mrs Mansfield at the lunchtime club.

Term 1 ended on Friday 23rd October. As the Friends of Eastling School (FOES) were unable to hold the annual Halloween disco, the children were invited to come into school in fancy dress.

We do have a few spaces available across the school for an immediate start. Any prospective parents looking for a Reception place for September 2021 are welcome to call the office on 01795 890252 to arrange a visit.

For further information please visit our school website where newsletters are displayed and updated regularly.

Melanie Dale, Headteacher

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Christmas Trees 2020

In view of the present Covid-19 uncertainties and in an effort to minimise and eventually eliminate transmission of the disease and so that it will be safe for everyone including those shielding and vulnerable, we regret to advise you that we will not be opening our Christmas tree plantation this year at Nashs Farm.

This has been a heart wrenching decision as it will be the first time in 30 years that we have had to close for everyone.

We greatly appreciate your continued donation generosity, which last year raised £8,630 and is being sent over to 40 parish churches and 20 charities.

Let's hope 2021 will be happier for us all - and we look forward to welcoming you back next year.

Alison and Peter Howard

Yvonne Fernando, NLP Master Practitioner & Life Coach lets us know ...

That "Meditation can help us in so many ways; increased health, deeper relaxation, managing stress, greater creativity, getting to know yourself better or even getting in touch with your higher self.

More and more people are adding some kind of meditation to their daily routine, either as an antidote to stress, as a simple method of relaxation or as means to a deeper communication with yourself. By doing a little meditation every day, it soon becomes a natural and easy habit which generously rewards you for the effort it involves."

In support of these times, to support you and others, and a larger picture Yvonne has produced a professional recording of a very simple guided meditation that she uses in her 8 week Relaxation Mindfulness Meditation programme that normally runs at Charing Surgery.

Yvonne is letting people have this on a Free or Donations welcome basis, via a JustGiving page in support of animal charities and a bigger picture.

So you can give it a go if you would like to or use it to enhance your practice if you already have one, or just simply to try another style. There are no strings attached.

Simply email Yvonne and she'll send you the recording and the JustGiving link.

Yvonne's Relaxation Mindfulness Meditation 8 week programme will run again in the future when we can all meet in groups.

Meanwhile, Yvonne also works one to one and in small groups. She supports clients with positive change; to give them more confidence, help them become 'unstuck' and move forward - keeping them focused, motivated and on track. Sessions are designed to open-up horizons and create new possibilities.

You can contact Yvonne on 01233 878474 or visit www.yvonnefernandonlp.co.uk, to join the mailing list or email her yvonne@yvonnefernandonlp.co.uk to receive the meditation or with any questions.

Support for your mind and body

Meditation can help you reset and recharge. To support you during these times, Yvonne has created a meditation recording for you to try.

Available **free** or **donations welcome** via a JustGiving page (in support of animal charities).

Just email here for the recording
yvonne@yvonnefernandonlp.co.uk

Yvonne Fernando
NLP Master Practitioner & Life Coach

T : 01233 878474 M: 07968 785714
www.yvonnefernandonlp.co.uk

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

Village Warden

07794 010 394
or 01795 890848



Police 101 Emergency 999

Some idiots decided that the farmers fields that had been planted needed digging up and have been tearing around the fields causing unnecessary damage. This is criminal damage and should anybody see this happening please ring 101 or if necessary 999 or ring me.

Hare coursing is very prevalent in and around our villages at the moment and again should this be seen please ring 999. It is a most horrible sport if you can call it that.

With winter here please make sure that your property is secure and your light timers adjusted and **very important** that all the lights on your vehicles are working, as there is nothing like meeting a one eyed motor car on the roads in the dark.

Have good month and take care, Alan.

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Help feed local people in crisis

Faversham Foodbank November 2020

Please can you help? Thank you for your continued generosity. This month the list of requests includes cleaning materials which often have to be left off people's shopping lists in favour of basic food items. I am also making a special request for Advent Calendars. It would be wonderful if every child dependent on foodbank parcels could have one with their December shopping but to make this possible, we need to deliver them to the foodbank by 25th November at the latest, to ensure they reach the families in time. Donations can be left at the Carpenters Arms during open hours or at the back of the church on Sundays 12 - 2pm.

Items required for November

Advent calendars; shaving foam; squash, long life fruit juice; tinned potatoes; multi purpose cleaning spray; washing up liquid



Richard Bewes considers the beginning of the Church Year...

The message of Advent? – history is going somewhere!

‘And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger...’ (Luke 2:7)

‘They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.’ (Matthew 24:30)

What a contrast between the humble birth of Jesus in Bethlehem – and his eventual return! No one knows when that day will be, but it will be earth-shaking. In the meantime, Advent reminds us of the last of six great saving actions of God in Jesus Christ.

The Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem was to inaugurate our salvation. The Death of Jesus at Calvary established it – forever. The Resurrection of Jesus at Easter confirmed it. The Ascension of Jesus to heaven celebrated it. The Gift of the Spirit at Pentecost drove it worldwide. And sixthly will come the Return of Jesus at the world's end – to consummate and complete it.

The message of Advent reminds us that history is not circular or locked into an unending stalemate. Neither can we ever accept a notion of successive reincarnations, for the Bible is clear that man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

The Bible has had many pre-runs of that final ‘Day of the Lord.’ Noah's flood, the overthrow of wicked Babylon; these and other upheavals were but pointers to the final ‘Day of our Lord Jesus Christ’ (1 Corinthians 1:8), when all wrongs will be stopped, and the Lord shall reign with justice.

For the Bible is clear that world history is leading to a Conclusion, to the new heaven and the new earth. That will be inaugurated when ‘He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.’

Christ's return will usher in the final triumph, bringing about the dismantling of the whole apparatus of Evil that has so harassed us across the centuries.

The Cross and Resurrection secured the victory over evil. Christ's return will make it final! Believers echo Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 - ‘And so we will be with the Lord for ever.’ If we have a strong view of the future, we can be sure it will energise us in the present!

In the meantime, Advent is coming round once again. It's time to celebrate the first of God's six mighty acts that secured our salvation – and look forward to the future.



High Downs Parish

Rector Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap
01795 522510 highdownsvicar@gmail.com

Reader Norman Fowler (01795 890412)
4 Meesons Close, Eastling

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)
4 Glebe Cottages, Eastling

Churchwardens

Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

Administrator Janet Payne
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jean West (01233 712270)

Administrator Sheila Moger (01233 463746)
E mail: samhawksnest@aol.com

Throwley Gaynore Moss (01795 890995)

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com
[facebook.com/highdownsbenefice](https://www.facebook.com/highdownsbenefice)

From The Registers

Funeral

Alison Humphrey
16th October 2020 at Throwley

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like submit articles or stories, or to advertise in the December 2020 magazine, send your submission by 20th November to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews or
www.goodnews.rf.gd

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted will continue and be live online on

www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk - also on the YouTube Channel 'Breakthrough at Lynsted'.

More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

Sunday Services

Every Sunday at Lynsted

9.00am Morning Prayer

6pm Breakthrough

1st November

All Saints

1 John 3. 1 - 3, Matthew 5. 1 - 12

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion
Doddington 10.30am Holy Communion by ext
Teynham 10.30am Family Service
Norton 10.30am Family Service
Teynham 2 - 4pm Light a candle in memory of a loved one

8th November Remembrance Sunday

Revelation 22. 1 - 5, Matthew 5. 38 - 48

Throwley 10.45am Remembrance Service

Teynham 10.45am Remembrance Service
Lynsted 10.45am Remembrance Service
Oare 10.45am Remembrance Service
Newnham and Doddington 3.00pm
Remembrance Service at War Memorial

15th November 2nd before Advent

1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11 Matthew 25. 14 - 30

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship
Teynham 10.30am Holy Communion by ext
Doddington 10.30am Family Service
Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

22nd November Christ the King

Ephesians 1. 15 - 23 Matthew 25. 31 - 46

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Family Service
Oare 10.30am Morning Worship

29th November Advent

1 Corinthians 1. 3 - 9, Mark 13. 24 - 37

Service to be confirmed

6th December Advent 2

2 Peter 3. 8 - 15a, Mark 1. 1 - 8

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion by ext

Trees
of
Love

We invite everyone across east Kent to join us this December for an online remembrance, including a special film released Saturday 5 December at 5pm.

www.pilgrimshospices.org/treesoflove

 **Pilgrims**
Hospices

“Don’t suffer in silence this winter”

Charity’s plea to the farming community in England and Wales
by Alex Phillimore

National rural charity The Farming Community Network (FCN) is urging agricultural workers in England and Wales not to suffer in silence this winter, as the industry enters one of the most challenging periods it has ever faced.

FCN runs a confidential national Helpline (03000 111 999) and e-Helpline (help@fcn.org.uk) which is open every day of the year from 7am to 11pm. FCN’s Helpline is operated by volunteers who are from farming backgrounds and understand farming pressures.

FCN is encouraging those experiencing feelings of isolation, anxiety or other concerns this winter to call or email its Helpline for a confidential chat.

The charity, which provides support to farming families and others who work in the industry, has seen a significant shift in the reasons people are calling its Helpline during recent months – with an increase in calls relating to mental health.

Mark Thomas, FCN’s Helpline Manager and Regional Director for the South of England, said: “Nearly half of all calls made to our support Helpline over the past four months have related to mental health and wellbeing, overtaking financial difficulties which has previously been the most common factor in calls received.

“The Covid-19 pandemic has affected many farmers and their businesses and 2020 has also brought a range of other challenges – such as flooding and drought in different parts of the UK, poor crop yields and concerns about the short and long term effects post-Brexit rural policy may have on the industry. All of these heightened feelings of stress and anxiety and put pressure on family relationships.

“FCN encourages those living in rural communities to get in touch with us. Whether the issues you’re experiencing are big or small, no one should have to suffer in silence. FCN’s Helpline (03000 111 999) is open every day of the year, 7am-11pm. Every year we help hundreds of farming families through difficult times. Our volunteers throughout England and Wales, many of whom are from farming backgrounds, are here to help.”



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Nigel Beeton writes: Sometimes our problems seem like giants and sometimes they go unchallenged for far too long....

David and Goliath

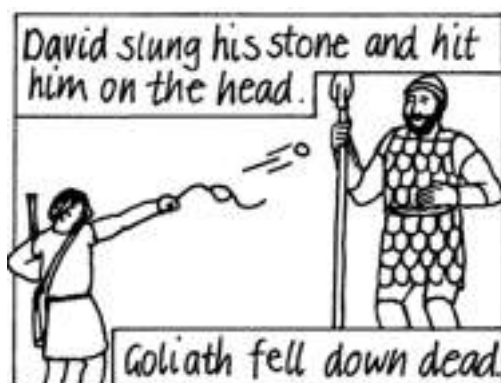
"Come out and fight!" - but they took fright
This mountain among men.

"Come out and die! You I defy!"
Goliath taunted them.

See how they shake, see brave men quake
Each one was sore afraid
No-one would dare to go out there!
The King was quite dismayed.

"Hear what I say – no tax to pay!
"So don't be petrified!"
Go out and slay that man today
"My girl will be your bride!"
But no such trade could them persuade
To step forth from the line
To their disgrace no-one would face
The giant Philistine.

Then David came to bring some grain
And several loaves of bread;
"I wonder why this heathen guy"
Is not already dead?
"He struts about, I hear him shout
"He stays in fighting health
"I've faced bear's paw and lion's jaw –
"I'll fight the man myself!"



"Well here's the thing," said Saul the King

"He's very, very, bad!"

"He's fought with rage from early age

"And you are just a lad!"

"He's nine foot three, it seems to me

"To raise your chance's rating

"Please put on now – I'll show you how

"My royal armour plating."

He put it on, but it was wrong

His strength did not improve.

The armour's weight was far too great

Poor David could not move!

He gave a cough and took it off

"I think I'll travel light!"

His sling he took, stones from the brook

"I'm ready for the fight!"

Goliath swore at what he saw

"Am I some kind of dog?"

"That you employ a youthful boy

"For such a mighty slog?"

A stone did fling from David's sling

It struck him on the head!

And with a roar he was no more

The giant fell down dead!

And so, because young David was
So faithful to his Lord

He won the day in God's own way

Without a shield, or sword

And through His grace whate'er we face

If we just stop and pray

Then we shall see the victory

Today, and every day!

By Nigel Beeton

Wags & Tales



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Unanimous support from Archbishops' Council on safeguarding proposals

The Archbishops' Council, at a recent meeting, voted unanimously for safeguarding proposals to offer both immediate practical support to survivors of abuse and also to strengthen independence in the Church's safeguarding work.

The Council approved a proposed plan for an interim pilot support scheme for survivors and agreed to draw down reserves for an initial support fund to support those who have come forward. The Council also committed to urgently pursue the principle of independent safeguarding recognising the need for greater independence and transparency of safeguarding.

The pilot scheme is designed to enable the Church to respond in particular to those survivors' cases which are already known to the Church, where the survivor is known to be in seriously distressed circumstances, and the Church has a heightened responsibility because of the way the survivor was responded to following disclosure.

Experience with these pilot cases will help inform the setting up of the Church's full redress scheme for victims and survivors of abuse as that is developed. Part of the value of a pilot scheme is that it will enable the Church to explore different ways of working and to learn important lessons for the future.

This is an endorsement by the Archbishops' Council of General Synod's unanimous vote in February for a more fully survivor-centred approach to safeguarding, including arrangements for redress.



Archbishop Justin Welby said: "To fail on safeguarding casts a profound stain across every good thing we do. I have said this before and I continue to stand by it. But I am acutely aware as we come towards the end of this year that while there is a genuine commitment for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults to be the highest priority of all parts of the Church, it is evident we still have not got it right.

"The report published today is a stark and shocking reminder of how so many times we have failed – and continue to fail – survivors. Apologies are vital, but they are not enough. We have to listen. We have to learn. And we have to act.

"In calling for the enquiry, through a letter to the then Home Secretary Theresa May in 2014, I was aware that although it would be something that survivors had demanded it would also be a deeply painful process to tell their stories. I am very grateful to them for their

Following the publication of the IICSA report, Archbishop Justin issued this statement.

courage. We cannot and will not make excuses and I must again offer my sincere apologies to those to have been abused, and to their families, friends and colleagues.

"There is clearly much to respond to and an in-depth consideration of today's report is vital. IICSA has shone a light on the past and present to help us better inform our future safeguarding work. They are owed our thanks which we give wholeheartedly. I pray this report and its recommendations will result in the changes needed to make our Church a safer place for all now and for future generations."

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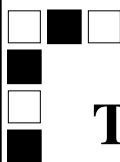
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The Ven John Barton compares a film of a pandemic to the real thing.

Moral questions from the pandemic


You may have missed it at the time. The movie 'Contagion' didn't make much of an impact when it was released for public viewing in 2011. Perhaps it was thought to be unrealistic. It was about a highly contagious, unknown virus, transmitted by an infected bat to a pig in a Chinese marketplace. From there it spread like wildfire round the world. It was fiction then of course, but not so far-fetched as to be distant from reality, as we now know. Deadly viruses, and the plagues they cause, have been part of world history since time began. In the early days, when travel between continents was infrequent, their spread was slower and usually confined to local regions.




The way the film's imaginary plot develops bears an uncanny resemblance to what we have experienced this year. Panic buying empties supermarkets, whole populations adopt social distancing, scientists work flat out to identify the virus and then search for a means to combat it. Meanwhile, millions are infected, and quarantines are imposed.

The story progresses far beyond the reality which is familiar to us. The irresponsible use of social media and false rumours of a cure lead to the looting of pharmacies. Emergency food supplies are ransacked, law and order break down. Troops police the streets. Then there's a breakthrough: a vaccine is discovered. But that raises a new moral problem: who will get it first and what would be a fair distribution system?

The movie is still available via Netflix, or you can buy a DVD online. Despite the inevitable carnage of the pandemic and the suffering it portrays, it contrives to have a relatively happy ending. In real life, we haven't got that far yet. But, please God, we will. After all, most deadly diseases are now under control and both vaccination and immunisation are part and parcel of everyday life; old 'uns take it for granted that their GP will summon them for an anti-flu jab each winter. But we may face an ethical dilemma when it comes to a vaccine for Covid-19. If there's an initial shortage, who should get it first? Should money come into it? Are Christian principles applicable?



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READ Joshua 4:1-9 and Exodus 12:1-14

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