

St Botolph's Weekly Chronicle



Photograph of the prayer station lit by the setting sun coming through the bell tower window

Weekly Update 2 from St Botolph's Church

Week Commencing 23rd March 2020

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this 2nd of what we hope will be a weekly update from the church for our church family and others. We are publishing these updates via email for those who have internet access. Paper copies will be delivered to those who do not have internet access. I hope that you found our first update, which was linked to Mothering Sunday, helpful. I also hope that the services of Morning and Evening Prayer are helpful and that you can join in at 9.30am and 5pm, if you are able. We may not be meeting physically in church, but we are meeting before God as a church family when we say these prayers together.



On Sunday I celebrated communion in church at 9.30am with no-one else present. It was a strange experience, but I felt that God was present receiving my prayers and those of all at home saying Morning Prayer or listening to the service broadcast over the radio of the service led by Archbishop Justin. A photograph of the service in St Botolph's on Sunday is below.

The latest news, as at 24th March, is that all the churches are to be kept closed and so there will not be the opportunity for people to come and spend some time in prayer and reflection at St Botolph's. This is unfortunate, but we must do everything we can to

follow the Government's instructions. We are also instructed to remain at home unless we have to go out for shopping or to collect medication. I urge you to comply with these instructions.

In light of these recent changes, we have set up a Pastoral Support Team of DBS-cleared (for safeguarding reasons) PCC members who will help the clergy team (Al, Heather and me) who will help support our church family. The Pastoral Support Team consists of Pauline Coulson, Jaki Lowder, Maria Fryer and Sue Tuck and they will be in weekly phone contact with you to make sure that you are well and will ask if you need any help. If you do need help with shopping etc, they will be happy to arrange that for you. One of the clergy team will also be in contact with you on a weekly basis to also offer spiritual and practical support. If, however, you would prefer not to receive a call from the Pastoral Support Team and/or the clergy then please let us know. We also have a help line, which you can use to contact us if you can't get in touch with us on our usual numbers.

The number is 07592 065567

We will continue to send you updates such as this one by email, so please keep checking your inbox (or junk file) for messages which will come via the St Botolph's email address (stbquarrington890@gmail.com) that Maria manages. Paper copies will be delivered to those without access to email.

We have included some prayers, Bible readings, puzzles and other information in this update. We hope that you find them useful.

Every blessing

Mark

Reading and Reflection from Rev Al

2 Corinthians 4:7-10

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

Reflection

It seems that in these current times Christians will have to shine like never before. The placing of a lighted candle in the window is a demonstration of that. Whether it is seen in the house across the road or as someone runs by on their daily exercise, shines light into the world. I will admit that I find it a hard thing to be cooped up, but it is my faith in Jesus that gives me purpose to carry on. Our reading demonstrates the love of Jesus and how it comforts and saves us.

Most of us are fortunate to have gardens in which we can enjoy the spring sunshine, to potter about, mostly I potter about under instruction from my wife Jayne! But not all have the countryside and gardens to escape to. We must remember those who are less fortunate than us. In our prayers this coming week let us pray for those who have little, whether that is in material things or in the lack of opportunity to be outside. If you can, support the foodbanks and charities in whatever way is possible for you. We are called by St Paul to be a light; we do that by relying on the strength of the Holy Spirit, notwithstanding that may feel we are pressed on every side. Keep in contact with one another; pray for each other. Jesus commands the disciples in John 13:34-35: "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." Continue to shine as a light in the world.

Prayers for this week

Let us Pray

Creator God, you have given us charge over everything you made putting all things under our authority. Yet we have failed to love your creation and it cries out for healing. Help us to become the stewards you have called us to be to love the earth and the whole of your creation as you love us.

Gracious God, we bring you our pleas and supplications for your people. The Psalmist tells of your grace "what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?" Yet you do so, loving us without limit. Sustain us in your grace that we may become the children you have called us to be.

Loving God, you love all that you have made. Grant us the wisdom to do the right thing in these times. To keep each other safe as so many are working towards finding a cure to end this pandemic. We pray for all of those who are carrying out their calling to love their brothers and sisters through their service in the NHS and care homes. For those delivering supplies and bringing us food for our tables. Help us to be an example of love as your Son, our Lord, Jesus loved and continues to love us.

Healing God, your Son cured so many afflicted in pain and suffering. Help us to pastor and care for those who are unwell at this time; whether through illness or loneliness. We raise to you in particular Andrea Barker, Claire and Lee Toby. Let us learn how to listen, to be compassionate in our encounters and to pray daily for all those we know and love.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth, as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil
For thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Report on the Tea Dance

More than 40 people enjoyed the first afternoon Tea Dance in St Botolph's Church Hall on Grantham Road last Wednesday. The event attracted people from all over the town. The team from St Botolph's Church provided a sumptuous tea with home-baked scones and a variety of cakes to suit all tastes. Live music was provided by Paul Breslin who encouraged everyone to join in with a medley of waltz's, foxtrots and quick steps and some line dances that proved very popular with everyone.



The new Coop store on London Road sponsored the event as part of its community programme. Eight pupils from St George's School also came along to help. The young people welcomed the guests at the door, sold tickets and served on the tables. They also joined in dancing with all those who attended and socialised with those who were sitting and taking a rest from dancing.



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As you know, this was a new event for our church. We wanted to put on a fun event for older people in our community, many of whom are lonely and have few opportunities to enjoy themselves. We were pleased that so many people came along including a number from Ashfield Lodge who came with their carers.

The Coop store offered to support the event and St George's School were keen to get involved. The young people who helped out were a credit to their school. As soon as the current crisis is over, we will put on another event.



Don't forget the Helpline number if you can't get through on our usual numbers

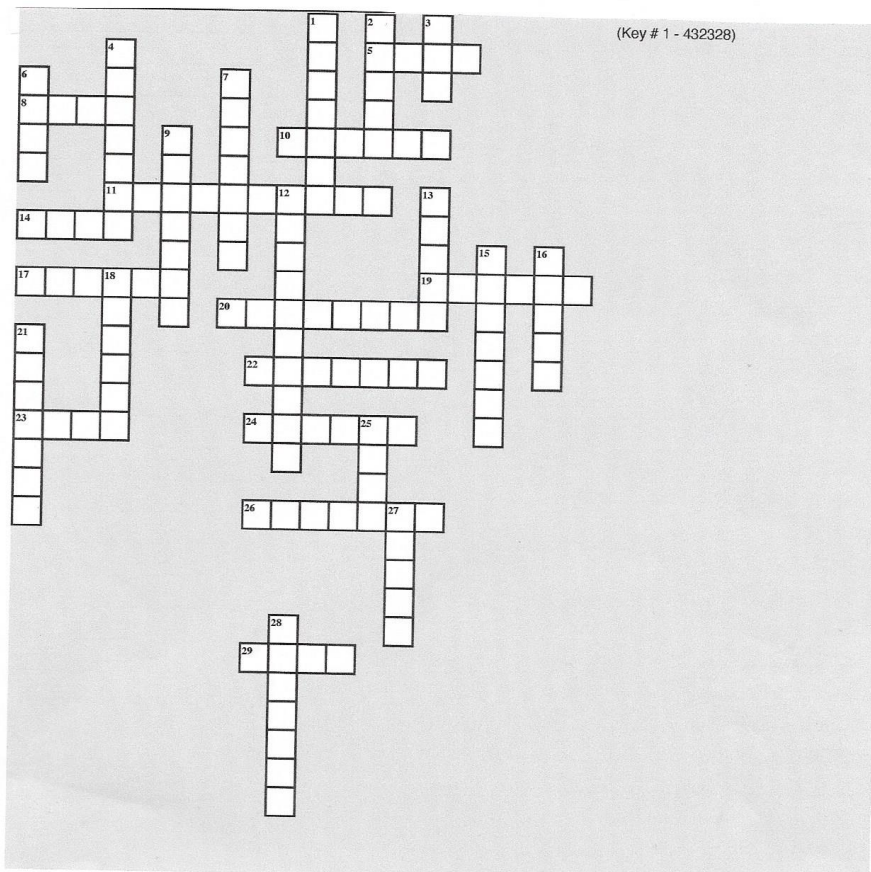
07592 065567

Brain Exercise No 1 March 2020

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

CLAY
DESTROYED
FRAGILE
GOD
HEARTS
JARS
JESUS
LIFE
LIGHT
POWER
SHARE
SHINING
SUFFERING
TREASURE
TROUBLES

Bible and St Botolph's Crossword



(Key # 1 - 432328)

Across

- 5 Tricked out of his birthright
- 8 Book of the bible with the stories of the early church
- 10 Happy to have his daughter restored to life
- 11 Top job in the C of E
- 14 Biblical boatbuilder
- 17 Queen who saved her people
- 19 Left the earth in a fiery chariot
- 20 Egyptian graves
- 22 The first Christian martyr
- 23 A good daughter in law
- 24 The first disciple to follow Jesus
- 26 Only four of these in the Bible
- 29 Author of the last book of the Bible

Down

- 1 Big guy brought low by a little guy
- 2 Also known as Cephas
- 3 Canine member of the church family
- 4 A title given to Jesus
- 6 Changed his name and came to fame
- 7 Sign in the sky
- 9 5 Spire View
- 12 Hated neighbours of the Jewish people
- 13 Went on the first Nile boat trip
- 15 Cathedral
- 16 Rev Al's wife
- 18 Samuel's Mother
- 21 Disease often mentioned in the Bible
- 25 Regular young lady at Sunday school
- 27 Seller of purple dye
- 28 British Saint close to our hearts