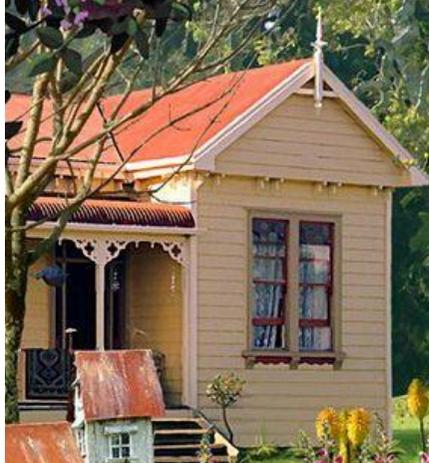


KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH

# MAGAZINE



*Changing lives for good through the power of God's word*



2013

# Summer 2020

# A Word from the Editor:



As I write it does not feel or look much like summer. I know I should not complain because we have had some lovely weather in recent weeks, but when I look out of the window and see it is cool, damp and drizzly it is not what one expects in July. However, us vegetable growers do need some rain and I should know given the number of times I have filled and carried a watering can about recently! Hopefully, by the time you read this, the weather conditions will have improved.

If only the same will be able to be said of COVID-19. Just like the weather this virus has been and is unpredictable and nobody yet knows how long it is going to be with us. I hope that this magazine finds you well and that you have been as fit and healthy as possible throughout the lockdown period, which is now easing a bit, thankfully. Some things, however, will remain out of bounds for a while longer, including our church building and on that issue Dave's Messages will explain why. That said, there is news of a proposal for KMC opening for private prayer on Sunday 2nd August. See page 30 for more details.

Unpredictability is a bit of a theme in this issue, particularly when you read what certain members of the KMC family have been up to during lockdown. You may find some of the stories are not you would have expected to read, and I think that goes for the contributors too. Overall though this has been a period where I imagine we have all had more time to sit and reflect and maybe been able to do things that there never seemed enough time to do previously, as well as start a new hobby or two.

As ever I hope you find this Magazine to be interesting, spiritual, informative, stimulating and entertaining in all the right places. Yes, there are two or three serious but important items within this issue which require your attention, but equally there is much more that I hope will raise a smile or two which we all surely need at this time.

Finally, there is news of two special events, one which has already happened and the other which is due next month. Both are a cause for celebration and the hope that for all concerned it has and will bring much happiness and joy. Despite all the current uncertainty there is no doubt we will meet again, but until then stay safe and God bless.

**Robin Spice, Editor.**

## **KMC MAGAZINE**

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# Message from Dave:



Dear Friends,

A good number of people are asking me when the church is going to reopen. I want to begin a response to that by saying that the church never closed! As the American Baptist pastor James Emery White put it recently, talking about his church (which is nicknamed 'Meck'), 'What do you mean by "reopen"? Since when did we close? Meck is as robust and active as ever - in some ways, even more so. Weekend services were but a part of the dynamic of our community of faith. Yes, it's one we miss dearly, but we never closed the church. And God help us if what it means to "be" or "do" church is ever reduced to simply weekend services.'

And as Rick Warren of the famous Saddleback Church in California, wrote, 'Our buildings have been closed, but the church is not a building! We are a living, breathing body. The church is a family, not a fortress! We are a people, not a place! We're an army of servants, not an event of attenders. You've been taught many times that a crowd is not a church, and that church is so much more than a weekend service! The church operates 168 hours a week!'

We are talking about the reopening of the building that serves the church and the community, and the recommencement of gathered worship. But we never closed! The Tuesday Morning Fellowship has continued to meet by Zoom. Clothes4U has been asked to help NHS workers. Pastoral visitors made contact. Yvette has undertaken an amazing amount of communication work. I have conducted funerals, not only for people with a church connection, but also for members of the local community and provided weekly devotions on YouTube. And so on.

So let's reframe the question. When might the building reopen again for gathered worship? Here's where I have to explain that things may not be as simple as you might think from Government announcements. (And there's a further proviso that things may change in between my writing this piece and its publication.) [See further article on page 6]

Already at time of writing permission has been given by the Government for places of worship to reopen for private prayer. This has rather reluctantly been endorsed by Connexion. However, we do not feel able to do this at KMC. The logistics are huge, and in any case private prayer in public sanctuaries is not generally part of Methodist spirituality.

You will also have heard talk from the Prime Minister and others about public worship being possible again from 4th July, provided the statistics don't worsen. However, as I've said to some people, it's harder to reopen

a church building than it is to close it. There will be no instant return to normal. Detailed risk assessments will have to be undertaken. Additional resources will have to be bought. We may need one-way systems. Stewarding an act of worship will be far more complex and will need more people to help. We may be short of some people who may still be shielding for health and/or age reasons. Some of the KMC congregation, including some very active members, have had to take stringent precautions. Several of the Local Preachers in the circuit are likely to be affected or may say they do not yet feel safe to conduct public worship. We shall not only have to comply with Government instructions, we shall also have to follow guidance from Methodist Church House. Failure to follow both Government and Connexion would render us negligent in law, should someone catch COVID-19 on our premises.

We are not sitting idly by. The Leadership Team and some Property and Safeguarding representatives have been having preparatory conversations. We are doing our best not to be caught napping by announcements. We shall meet again when the situation changes, or we receive substantial new advice or instructions.

And when we do gather again, we must be prepared for it not to be a simple reinstatement of the old ways. We are all likely to have to sanitise our hands upon entry and exit. We shall have to keep a register of who is on the premises and for what time for potential track and trace purposes. (In fact, we already have to do that while keeping an eye on the building.) For a while at least it is quite possible we shall not have any hymns in our worship: as you may have read, the virus is projected longer distances out of someone's mouth by the exertion of singing than by other activities. It is unlikely that we will pass the offering around. We may well suspend tea and coffee after the service, and preachers may have to bring their own drinking water. Attendances will be smaller, for various reasons: some will not yet feel safe to venture out; some will wonder what the difference is between this and the video worship we have been having; our capacity will in the immediate term be reduced by social distancing measures. In these and other ways we shall seek to love our neighbour.

I believe it is going to take a long time before Sunday morning looks anything like it used to. We have heard a lot of talk in the media about 'the new normal' not being like 'the old normal', and we shall have to prepare for a new normal when we meet at KMC.

We have made some adaptations during lockdown such as the video devotions, and I can see a longer term role for video. In fact, we shall need to do more than adapt: we shall need to innovate in all sorts of areas. I am certainly aware that my YouTube videos are not only being watched by

regular worshippers from Knaphill and Byfleet church; they are being watched by ex-churchgoers, and by people who have very little clue at all about Christianity. I have been telling people for years that the Internet is a mission field: well, here is the evidence. What does this say about our priorities? What other priorities might have to change? Rob Gill and I have been attending an online course on Advanced Social Media as we seek to ponder the best ways we can use KMC's online presence with the website, Facebook page, and maybe other approaches.

As well as new mission priorities that may well focus a lot on the online world ('Everyone you want to reach is online,' says Canadian church leader Carey Nieuwhof), we shall also have an ongoing pastoral concern for those of our fellowship who do not have an Internet connection.

What can we do in the meantime?

It goes without saying that this has affected our finances. It now becomes more important than ever to ask you to give not by cash but by standing order or some other non-cash method. We may find new ways to receive your giving, as well.

We need to think about the situation we are in from a biblical perspective. The most helpful approach I have found has been to think about us as being like Israel in exile. When Babylon conquered the kingdom of Judah, destroyed the Jerusalem Temple, and took the majority of the population into exile, it was devastating. 'How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?' they asked in Psalm 137. But Jeremiah wrote a letter to the first swathe of exiles, encouraging them to settle down in their new strange land and seek to bless the people among whom they lived. You can find his letter in Jeremiah chapter 29. Do read it.

Hence, although I have had to share some things in this letter that must seem terribly gloomy to many of you, we are not without hope! We never are without hope when we have the risen Jesus! He may be putting us in a new and bewildering context, but it is still a place where we can bless people in his name. We need to be ready to innovate, to find the ways we are going to do that.

Your friend and minister,



**Dave Faulkner**

minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

*Since writing the Message on pages 3 - 5, Dave has provided an update which now follows:*

Dear Friends,

I know some of you are asking when the church building will re-open for public worship. The purpose of this second article is to explain where we have reached in that goal.

Although the Government announced that places of worship could re-open from 4th July, the process to do so is neither simple nor quick. We have been reliant not only on advice and instructions from the Government, but also from the Connexional Team of the Methodist Church nationally. We are being careful to read and heed the mountains of documents we are being sent, because were anything to go wrong we have to show that we have not been negligent in following procedures and instructions laid down. Please be patient with us as we strive to do this, especially as a lot of responsibility is falling on a small number of people in the church.

The Circuit Plan has been suspended until the end of August, so preachers are not available to us anyway. It is the hope in the Circuit that the Plan will be reinstated from September, and so the earliest we can consider holding a service again is 6th September.

And although the advice is changing and adapting all the time (it honestly feels like Whack-A-Mole sometimes!) you can be sure that it will not be an instant return to worship as we knew it. As things stand at the time of writing the services are likely to be short. There will be no singing because that can project the virus greater distances. There will be no physical contact between us, no tea and coffee afterwards, and we shall need to leave soon after the service ends. You may see one-way systems in place, and you might even have to book in advance to come, and leave your contact details for the Government's Track and Trace programme. Holy Communion will probably involve you picking up the bread and wine yourself, and the bread may well have to be 'wafers'. Toilets will be out of bounds. And all this is to say nothing of the cleaning regimes that will be necessary as well.

You can imagine, then, that to get to that stage requires a lot of work and planning. This is why I am asking for your patience and understanding.

A few of you have asked about the Government's permitting of private prayer in places of worship. And although this is something that is not a major part of typical Methodist life in the way it is for many Anglicans and Catholics, we would like to try a Sunday morning where we offer this as a trial before we attempt a worship service.

So, I bring to you a proposal from the church Leadership Team that we offer private prayer on Sunday 2nd August. Fuller details will follow soon, but you can expect something like this:

- ✝ You will need to book a 20-minute slot in advance with Yvette Wright, starting at 10:00 am, 10:30 am, or 11:00 am.
- ✝ You will need to wear a face mask and gloves.
- ✝ You will need to supply your contact details.
- ✝ Only ten people will be allowed in the worship area at any one time.
- ✝ You will be instructed as to where you can sit.

I hope this makes things a little clearer for people. I am very happy to field any questions you might have, so please phone or email me if you would like to know more.

And since (as I said earlier) a lot of work is falling on a small group of people, if anybody feels they can volunteer some practical help, can I encourage you to speak to Linda Todd, please?

Ultimately, the Church Council (who are the Managing Trustees of KMC's property and finance) must make the decision about whether and when to re-open, so please pray that they may have wisdom in their deliberations. I especially ask this, because Church Council business currently has to be conducted by email, which is disadvantageous compared to face-to-face discussions.

I want to end on a positive note, a note of faith. It is easy for people either just to want a simple return to normality (which patently is not going to happen) or to despair at what may be lost. I want to share a thought from the inspirational Canadian church leader Carey Nieuwhof, who has written extensively on how to cope with the crisis of this pandemic. In an article entitled '5 Transformative Questions to Ask Before You Reopen Your Church (Or After You've Done It)' his first question is provocative. It's this: 'What does this make possible?' Always remember that a new situation, even a challenging one like this, presents us with new possibilities and opportunities. Our message should not change, but our methods most certainly may.

God bless you all.

Yours in Christ.



**Dave Faulkner**

minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

# A Pastoral Letter from Asif Das

“How are you?” This routine greeting automatically rolls off our tongue to acknowledge the presence of someone we know without getting ourselves too involved with them. How would we react if they answered with anything other than, “I’m fine” or “not bad”. What would we do if someone responded, I’m going through a rough time and I’m not sure where God is?

Nowadays, “How are you?” has taken on an increased significance for us. When we ask it of someone, we sincerely want to know, because we know no one is really doing “I’m fine.” Everyone is struggling at some level in this unprecedented time. So, when now we ask, “How are you?” we really mean it. That is one of the blessings that have come out of this time of lockdown. Our words and actions are becoming more purposeful. We are paying more attention to our interactions. We are making more of an effort to check in with people. I have heard from a number of people with whom I have not spoken in ages, reaching out to re-connect and see how I am doing, and I have done the same with some of my long lost friends and relatives.

There are indeed blessings to be found in the midst of challenges. In the Bible Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord makes us lie down in green pastures and leads us beside quiet waters. While in no way do I believe God caused the Covid-19 pandemic, I do believe God is working through it to make us lie down in green pastures. We have overworked ourselves and God’s creation to the point that this pandemic feels like a time to lie down and rest, to recuperate from our unhealthy schedules and habits and to let the planet be restored too.

And what happens when we lie down in green pastures? Again Psalm 23 reminds us, “He restores my soul.” Such a funny concept, when we think about it. Why would our souls need restoring? And how can this happen in the midst of a crisis in which people are losing their jobs, their businesses, their loved ones, their patience and their peace of mind? These times can feel more soul crushing than soul restoring. I think it depends on how we use this time of crisis. I was talking with a friend a few days ago who was feeling a great sense of accomplishment for completing a project he had been putting off for a long time because he was too busy. He has used this lock down time to clear away clutter and restore a space in his house that had been neglected. Could we do the same thing with our souls? Where do we even begin?

We begin in the green pastures and quiet waters. It means slowing down, finding a quiet place and just being still - listening, breathing, and relaxing. These small actions won't change the world, but they might change our world. We do not take enough time to be still. And it may be a challenge right now if people have young children at home. But regardless, finding time to be still is a wonderful way to let the residue in our souls drift away restoring that part of us that most connects with God. This will make us more in tune with the needs of those around us, our families, friends and neighbours and also helping us to remember that God is with us, even here, even now.

Every blessing in Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

## Asif

*(Asif Das is in pastoral charge of Merrow, Stoughton and West Horsley Methodist Churches in the Wey Valley Circuit).*

# Money Matters

## Finance

The last time I wrote a piece on finance for the magazine was last September. We had finished the 2018-19 financial year with a healthy surplus of almost £5200, in spite of some fairly heavy maintenance costs. As I point out at every opportunity, although many people give generously, income from the offertory, donations and gift aid does not quite cover the assessment\* (£41,871 compared with £42,270), let alone all the other expenses, so we are heavily dependent on income from lettings, which is not something over which we have total control. Hirers can come and go, so we cannot ever be complacent that we are in a comfortable position. Nevertheless, things were looking hopeful and this promising state of affairs continued until the end of February 2020. Then the Coronavirus struck.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been, and continue to be, terrible, both in the UK and around the world. Any financial losses we at KMC have suffered are far less important than the loss of loved ones and ruined livelihoods. However, it is my job to be concerned with the finances of KMC. **We have lost some £7500 during lockdown, because all lettings**

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\*The Assessment covers the costs of employing Ministers and Circuit Lay employees, the upkeep of manses and a contribution to District Funds.

**and fundraising had to cease.** I am exceedingly grateful to those many members who have continued to make their regular donations, either by standing order or bank transfer. This has maintained a steady income and we are more fortunate than some churches because we have reserves, but it is a worrying situation since we do not know when matters will improve. The pre-school has re-started, but no-one else has permission yet, and even when that is given, the situation is far from simple, because of the risk of cross-infection.

Those who give by cash, however, have not been able to donate, and although standing orders and bank transfers make my life simpler, the cash collection makes an important contribution and this is why. Most people know that Gift Aiding is a painless way for tax payers to increase their gift, but it is less well known that we can claim the tax back for much of the weekly offertory, even from non-tax payers, under the Gift Aided Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). We received over £1300 in reclaimed tax from GASDS last year and over £1500 the year before – substantial sums. GASDS covers CASH donations only (no cheques are allowed) and NO MORE THAN £30 AT A TIME. It includes those who use the envelope scheme. So, this means we can claim for the loose cash collection and for those envelope users who are not taxpayers.

To all those who donate by way of the envelope scheme please note we have recently received an update from HMRC. This advises that missed envelope donations can be given in one envelope provided the amount relating to each week's donation is less than £30 and, as explained above, is in cash.

This is particularly relevant currently when we have not met for a service for weeks and still do not know when we may be able to do so. I have not been out more than necessary and certainly not to the bank, so I could not do anything useful with cash donations should they be given to me. However, I will see how things go as the lockdown eases. If I can see a way for those who wish to support KMC by starting to catch up on missed weeks of cash donations to do so, I will make sure members are notified. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further clarification on this matter.

Thank you to everyone for your support, financial or prayerful. Keep safe.

**Lynda Shore,**  
**Treasurer.**

# giftaid



Please don't turn the page before reading this article. I know this subject is not very exciting, but I will do my best given the material I have to work with here! Lynda mentioned Gift Aid in her article, so here is a bit more information about it, in the hope that you might be tempted to sign up and gift aid your donations to KMC, if you are able to.

So, Gift Aid. What is it, why is it important, how does it work, and will it cost anything to be involved?

## **What is it?**

Gift Aid is a scheme which enables you to increase the donations you make to a registered charity like KMC, provided you are a UK taxpayer. This is provided the tax you pay in any one year is equal to, or greater than, 25% of the Gift Aid donations you make to all charities. (If the tax is less, HMRC will ask you, the donor, to pay the difference.)

**So, this means that for every £1.00 you donate to KMC, we can claim an additional 25p.**

## **Why is it important?**

It is important because of this additional amount of money KMC can receive. All charities rely on donations so to be able to use the Gift Aid scheme to claim extra money from the tax man has to be a good thing particularly because it does not cost you, the donor, or the charity anything at all. Also, as Lynda described, due to COVID-19, KMC has incurred a financial loss so never has there been a more crucial time for donations than now. Plus, if everybody Gift Aided their donations who could, this would be very welcome help to KMC's finances at this time and going forward.

## **How does it work?**

To make sure your donations are part of the Gift Aid Scheme you need to complete a Gift Aid Declaration which you can get from me, KMC's Gift Aid Secretary. Once completed I will retain it in my records which will then be available to the HMRC if they ever ask to see it. Just by filling in this declaration will enable KMC to claim, on an annual basis, the additional 25p from every £1 you have donated to KMC. This is all on the basis, of course,

that you have paid tax on income or capital gains in that year. So, if you sign a Gift Aid Declaration and then later find you are no longer paying sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains, you need to tell me so that I can delete your record from the scheme.

### **Will it cost anything to be involved?**

Well I have already answered that question I think but just in case you missed it the answer is NO! All you have to do is take the time to complete a Gift Aid Declaration which will give KMC permission to claim the tax back on the donations you have made to the church in any one tax year.

### **Are you still with me?**

If not, all you really need to know is the following:

An example: you donate £100 to KMC via the envelope scheme, or by standing order. KMC can use the Gift Aid scheme to make your donation £125 by claiming back from HMRC 25p for every £1 you have donated.

For this to be possible you need to have:

- signed a Gift Aid Declaration
- paid the same amount of tax that KMC claims back (or more) in Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax.

In the event that you are still with me, I would like to remind you that just as KMC has lost money during this COVID-19 period, so have other charities including the Methodist World Mission Fund and Mission in Britain Fund, Whitechapel Mission, Methodist Homes Association (MHA) and Christian Aid. So, if you are able to make donations to any one or more of these charities, there is no doubt they would be very welcome. And you will be able to Gift Aid your donations too, if you pay tax!

If you have read down this far, thank you and should you have any questions please do contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.....

**Robin Spice,**  
**Gift Aid**  
**Secretary**

*giftaid it*



# LOCKDOWN STORIES

from the KMC Family

*Thanks to all who responded in various ways to my request for stories about what you have been doing during the lockdown period. They were many and varied as you might expect.*

*The first contribution is from **Helen Brice** who describes amongst other things about finding a new hobby.*

Not long after the lockdown was announced, my PC tablet went wrong so my husband bought me a new one. One of the apps I discovered is called Happy Colour. It is painting by numbers with lots of pictures to choose from. I have found it very relaxing.

I have also been watching and listening to Matt Beckingham singing and playing hymns. Such a talented man.

Recently one Sunday, we drove to Brookwood and walked around part of the Brookwood Cemetery. It was so peaceful, we enjoyed listening to the birds singing.

*Meanwhile during April, **Raj Chhetri** took the time to write two poems, both of which have Easter as their theme and are based on Raj's comprehension of the Old & New Testaments.*

## **MY SALVATION**

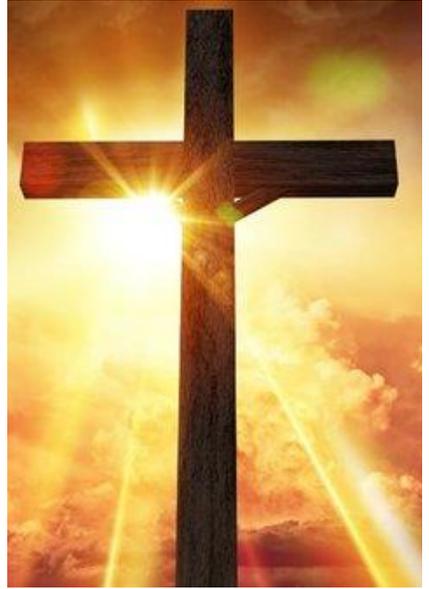
I was lost and aimlessly wandering,  
In the darkness I was floundering,  
Fearing for my soul's damnation,  
I sought for my soul's salvation.

To spare my soul from condemnation,  
Jesus suffered for my soul's redemption:  
As the embodiment of love and  
compassion,  
Saving souls of the Mankind is His Mission.

He gave the blind the normal sight,  
He healed the lame to walk, upright.  
He lovingly raised the dead again to life,  
For our salvation he became the Sacrifice.

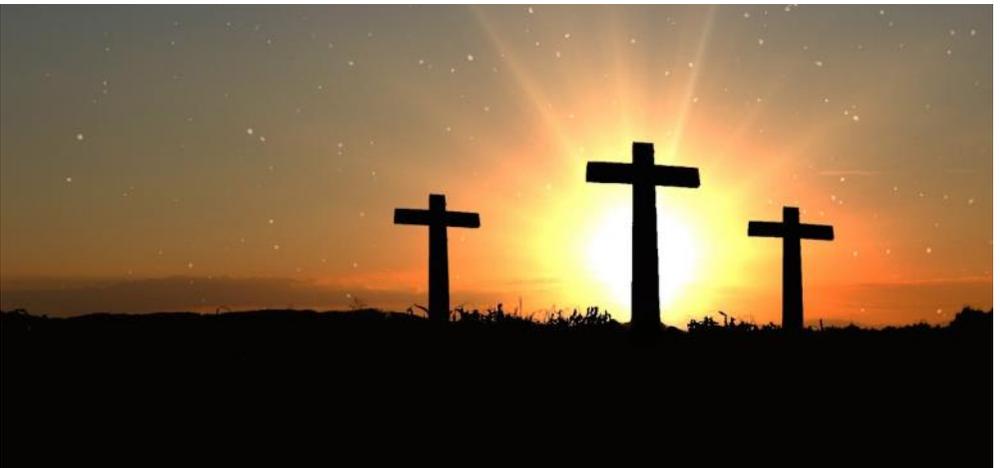
On the Cross all our sins are nailed,  
Our soul, body and mind are healed.  
This is Almighty God's love for Mankind:  
God had His beloved son was sacrifice.

Such supreme sacrifice for our Salvation,  
Giving believers the hope for Resurrection,  
The Easter Sunday fulfilled the prophecy,  
Proving how merciful is the God Almighty.



## **EASTER MISSION**

On this sunny Easter Day afternoon,  
I reflected quietly in our back garden,  
Surveying around Nature's exhibition  
Thankful for God Almighty's Salvation.



My faith is wanting, fickle and feeble,  
But I appreciate Jesus' birth in a stable,  
As I thought of the bewildered shepherds,  
And wondered at Eastern Magi's rich gifts.

Jesus came to Earth on Rescue Mission,  
As God's Chosen One for our Salvation,  
He was the eldest son of the carpenter,  
And His chosen 12 Disciples' Teacher.

Nobody understood miraculous intervention,  
Sadducees and Pharisees feared His Mission.  
As they worried about the loss of their authority,  
They failed to comprehend the ancient prophecy.

Lawmen's ignorance was Blessing for Mankind,  
But Jesus' death these Teachers of Law plotted,  
As they realised the potential loss their position,  
Ironically, they enhanced the Prophetic Revelation.

*Whilst Raj was composing poems, **Ella Allen** was out and about and here she describes what delights she has been discovering in her locality.*

Today, 10th June, I felt like doing something different and something positive, so I am putting pen to paper to tell you about my walks! They are not very mind blowing, but they have given me pleasure during these worrying times.

I don't go out walking every day because I seem, somehow to fill my days and there is no time left! One of my usual walks is round Goldsworth Park Lake, although that has not been so popular recently because of the number of people and bikes going around. The lake itself always looks beautiful and there are many different birds to admire.

My favourite walk by far is part of the canal going towards Woking from St John's. The sound of the birds singing gives me much pleasure and the canal itself is full of life. I have watched the vegetation on the banks and the various stages of it and right now is the time when plants are flowering and colourful.

Last week I spotted two moorhens with six babies swimming along looking very busy! Their black plumage and red beaks made them look stunning. I do hope all the babies survive.

Last month I came across a small raft of sticks and sitting on it was a terrapin! How amazing was that! He (or she) was the size of a small tortoise and it seemed quite happy sunning itself as the raft moved along. I am told people have terrapins as pets and then get tired of them and put them in the nearest lake or canal. Several people came along and photographed it. It certainly made my day!

Living on Goldsworth Park means you can have a short walk and go a different way every day. There are so many paths around and quite often I don't have to walk on a road with cars etc. for most of the time. I think we have all discovered walks that we have never been on before because we have had the time to explore the area. Mind you, we often end up in a cul-de-sac and have to turn round and retrace our steps!

As I walk along, I think of all the people who normally attend KMC plus others, of course, and I long for the day when we can all be together again. I thank God for all those folks who have been in touch with me, one way or another and for those who have been keeping our church building safe and secure.

God bless you all.

*Our next contributor, **Helen Chamberlain**, was busy planning holidays both near and far until you know what came along.....*

I think March 23rd was when lockdown officially started. March 20th would have been our Golden Wedding anniversary, and rather than stay at home feeling sorry for myself, I decided I would book myself a special holiday, which is what Tony and I would have done had he lived. Well, this special holiday was to China of all places! I booked some 18 months ago before any whiff of coronavirus. Obviously, the holiday never happened even though I went through a certain amount of stress (and money!) to obtain a Chinese visa. When the holiday was cancelled, and before lockdown, undeterred I booked myself a few days in Bath. Well that didn't happen either!

How have I spent lockdown? Well, I have completed no end of jigsaws, made great inroads into my book mountain and baked (and eaten!) cakes. Added to that a certain amount of housework and gardening... but not too much! I worried that I was becoming too self-centred, but what was I to do when the Government was telling me to stay at home and self-isolate? I saw what other people were doing, the amazing NHS

workers and all those who were keeping the country going and I didn't feel I was contributing anything.

I have been buoyed up during this experience by the numerous phone calls, Zoom meetings, WhatsApp messages etc. A big thank you to David for his regular contributions and to Barbara Humphries for instigating Tuesday morning Fellowship via Zoom. Thank heaven for modern technology! I think this crisis has brought out the best and the worst in people, and I thank all those who have been so kind to me over the past few weeks. Thankfully, things are beginning to improve, and I now have a social bubble with my younger daughter, and I look forward to seeing my grandchildren soon. I also look forward to seeing my friends at KMC again. I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Best wishes.

*Now it is time to hear from Eileen Lane about how unexpectedly busy she has been during this period. However, see if you think, as I do, that it sounds as though she has been busier than usual! How might she have managed that? Well dear reader, read on.....*

How will I fill my time? I never dreamt that I would be as busy as usual. Two days before the official lockdown commenced, the Vyne was shut down after lunch. The group I was working with that day all exchanged phone numbers. Every week since all of us have phoned one another without fail. We've discussed plant growing, had many a conversation about the birds and their really clear bird song and exchanged various anecdotes.

Being on my own I've felt privileged to live where I do. The close is semi-open plan and with the good weather we've been able to sit outside and talk with one another – usually every afternoon! Every Thursday evening the Close joined in with the clapping for the NHS and all key workers. The children next door dressed up, had an improvised band, and made cakes for everyone.

VE Day was quite special. We all sat out and had a “distance” party. One of our group made some Pimm's which we all tasted! We put our own glass on top of a bin whilst our “host” poured some Pimm's into it. We then had a grand toast. Of course, we had put up decorations too and the children had made flag bunting. We didn't finish our celebrations until after 10pm!

I've also tried to phone my pastoral group every week. Still more phoning

as I've been in contact with many friends and relatives. Is it any wonder I've only managed to complete one jigsaw (1000 pieces) and still have 3 waiting to be started?

I had an unexpected phone call inviting me to take part in a project called "Smile Inside" which Woking Borough Council is funding. This involved me ringing up my vulnerable friends for the Vyne and writing down a variety of stories that would raise a smile. Here's one I would like to share.

Brenda received a small package which on opening turned out to be a tea towel. No ordinary tea towel however, this was an invitation to her grand-daughter's wedding this coming October! (Subject to COVID-19).

The stories that I and two others have collected are being passed to artists before being set up as an exhibition in the future. This will probably be held in Woking or Knaphill Library.

I've had a surprise visit from my daughter and granddaughter from Devon. It was lovely to see them even though it was short. My other two daughters are thankfully safe and well – one on the borders of Myanmar and Thailand and the other working from home in Deptford.

I've found the television service on Sundays really good as I have been able to feel part of a congregation with that. Afterwards I have usually read David's script.

That's been my life in lockdown in a nutshell!

*In the next item contributed by **Linda Todd**, see how many things Linda itemises that might match your lockdown experience. I must admit, however and just speaking for myself of course, I gave up on the headband and hair rollers! Wasn't a good look – can't think why.*

We:

- ◆ complete the previous day's crosswords and word puzzles every day over breakfast
- ◆ take a stroll down to West End each day to get the newspaper
- ◆ have taken the opportunity to walk further afield on a Sunday and have discovered places in the local area that we have never seen before (and we have lived in our present house for nearly 33 years)!
- ◆ greet everyone that we meet, but now cross the road to avoid people

coming the other way (formerly deemed rather rude, but now the "norm")

- ◆ have finally got around to doing (some of) the jobs that we have been putting off for ages (e.g. re-writing the address book, which resulted in several long telephone conversations with friends we would normally only send to at Christmas).
- ◆ have both "Zoomed" in one way or another (had any of us ever heard of "Zoom" before lock-down)?
- ◆ have sung with Gareth Malone's Great British Home Choir for half an hour each weekday evening (we didn't submit a video - sorry)!! (This virtual choir 'practice' has now moved to Gareth's You Tube page and takes place for one hour on a Thursday evening).
- ◆ have stood in our front garden on Thursday evenings each week to Clap for Carers and have waved at 'neighbours' far & wide that we don't actually know!
- ◆ took part in a virtual street party from our suitably decorated front garden on VE day and had the time to relax and chat properly with our near neighbours (whilst strictly maintaining the appropriate social distance)!
- ◆ have worn face masks and rubber gloves in public without feeling embarrassed or "overdressed"!
- ◆ have queued up to get into shops with good humour and been profuse in our gratitude to staff we might normally have taken for granted.
- ◆ have taken the opportunity to use smaller local shops, now in need of our support more than ever.

On a personal note I now have:

- ◆ time to help with the gardening (both at home and on the allotment) and have even helped to prune a tree!
- ◆ worn a hairband and used hair rollers for the first time since I was a teenager (having not seen my hairdresser since January)!
- ◆ received the most unusual (but very welcomed) birthday present ever ..... a large bag of compost! (Thank you dear friend).

I am sure we will all look back on these times with mixed memories - missing regular contact with our children and watching our grand-

daughter grow from being a toddler into a proper little girl. However, the real upside has been taking the opportunity to **stop** rushing around and being "busy" and spend quality time at home together. I could get used to it!

*If you wanted to know how **Desna Berry** has been coping during lockdown, I can tell you. She has been immersing herself in anagrams. And yes, she has been very kind in wanting to share some of them with us so here goes. Good luck. See page 30 for the answers.*

- |                    |                    |                      |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. PRESBYTERIAN    | 6. ASTRONOMER      | 11. DESPERATION      |
| 2. THE EYES        | 7. THE MORSE CODE  | 12. DORMITORY        |
| 3. SLOT MACHINES   | 8. ANIMOSITY       | 13. ELECTION RESULTS |
| 4. SNOOZE ALARMS   | 9. A DECIMAL POINT | 14. THE EARTHQUAKES  |
| 5. ELEVEN PLUS TWO | 10. MOTHER-IN-LAW  |                      |

*And now over to Pirbright where **Mike & Liz Funning** have been taking advantage of the good weather and getting plenty of exercise by exploring Brookwood Cemetery amongst other things.*

We have been blessed to have survived the Covid pandemic relatively well. We have been content within our little bubble aided by good weather, good places to exercise and having been able to source food deliveries. Our exercise aim has been an hour's brisk walk most mornings.

We are fortunate to live opposite Brookwood Cemetery, which has many fascinating aspects, such as Victorian Gothic Memorials and Mausoleums, large areas of open meadows, a Russian Orthodox Church, the well-known Military Cemetery, and large areas of natural woodlands. We have enjoyed exploring all parts of the site, which since being acquired by Woking Borough Council has been well tended. Several notice boards have been installed giving details of notable people interred there. We have learned many things, one of which enabled Liz to answer a question on Pointless. The question was "who was the artist who painted Roosevelt's picture in the White House JSS". The answer can be found below. Gradually more and more people have come to realise what a wonderful and interesting place it is and numbers of visitors, though not huge, have increased.

Additionally, we have walked the many lanes and footpaths on the commons and heathland that surround Pirbright. All this has meant that we are both much fitter and we have both lost weight!

Our garden has benefited from some much-needed attention due to our remaining in the UK over the summer months, unlike in previous years spent in France. Most afternoons have been spent digging, weeding, and planting vegetables. Liz has also boldly gone into the darkest reaches of the kitchen cupboards making many finds including 4 kg of rice which we had completely forgotten about.

Along with many of our neighbours we joined in the Thursday evening clapping sessions in support of the NHS and Key Workers. One particularly poignant time was when one neighbour played “somewhere over the rainbow” on his trumpet.

It has been very important for us to keep in contact with friends and family all over the world. We have been Skyping our son in California, had a virtual dinner party with friends in France and Yorkshire and celebrated one of our French friends’ birthday with Aperos along with 6 other couples all over the UK. Liz has been able to read bed-time stories to our grandsons, and both have had Zoom church meetings!

As bad and devastating as this time has been, we should remember the positives that have come out of it all. The selfless caring of medical and care staff, the greater sense of community and hopefully remember, and act on, the inequalities in health both in this country and all over the world.

*Answer: JSS John Singer Sergeant*

*It sounds from the next story that whilst **John & Sheila Mynard** have been well looked after during the last three months, they have also been trying to ensure KMC is looked after too.....*

During this lockdown period, Sheila and I have been richly blessed with both family and friends, even getting deliveries from the chemist with our prescriptions. People couldn’t have been kinder.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about Easyfundraising. We order ready meals online from a company called Wiltshire Farm Foods. They have a system whereby they will donate 2.5% of the cost of each order to a charity of our choice. So we, of course, chose KMC.

These donations mount up quickly and you can raise quite a few pounds when you shop on a regular basis.

If you need to buy other things online, then please take a look at the “Easyfundraising” website to see if the website you are buying goods from are part of this very useful system.

I hope that more of you will be tempted to look at the range of company websites that use this system so that your future purchases will raise a few per cent for our church as well in these needy times.

*Green fingered KMC member **Sylvia Dowding** would like to share her delight at growing a flower that she has never had success with until now.*

Here is a photo of the poppies I have grown. I love poppies and the seeds were given to us at the Remembrance Service in November 2019. I have been unable to grow poppies in our garden soil so these plants might be small, but I am thrilled at this success in a pot.



*I believe that jigsaws have become even more popular during lockdown than they were before. Certainly, that has been the case in our household, and yours too. Our next contributor, **Gill Ball** was keen to have a go, but it seems things did not quite go to plan....*

### **LOCKDOWN JIGSAW BLUES**

I thought I'd try a jigsaw  
To fill some lockdown hours  
I ordered off the internet  
With all its special powers!  
I waited for them to arrive  
With very bated breath  
But when I saw 500 bits  
It scared me half to death.  
I tipped it on the table  
And started on the edges.  
They all seemed the same colour  
So thought "I'll work in wedges".  
First I tried out all the greens  
Then went on to the browns.  
Then I tried the reds and blues  
This brought on many frowns.  
I stared at it, my eyes on stalks  
"It's hard", my husband mocks.  
Perhaps I'm not a "jigsaw girl"  
It can go back in its box.



***Yvette Wright** now takes us back to the beginning of the lockdown in March to tell us how she found herself caring for **Allan** as he fell under the COVID-19 spell. If you don't already know you will be pleased to hear that with God on his side and Yvette watching over him, he has made a full recovery for which we are truly thankful. Here is their story...*

Rumours of a pandemic was in the news. Supermarkets were running short of goods, soap, hand sanitizer, pasta, tinned produce, yeast, flour, toilet rolls and kitchen rolls. People began to panic buy because of the unknown, even though we were told not to panic buy as there was plenty for everyone.

Advice from Government was that we should stay at home as much as

possible, staying with those we live with and not meet up with other people, otherwise the virus could spread. Cleanliness was paramount. Various organisations, businesses and groups began to close. We were advised not to go out unless it was absolutely necessary.

The care home my Mum lives at advised families to stop visiting so regularly, once a week at the most. They were allowing visits on Mothering Sunday, but as the day got closer, all visits on that day were cancelled, and none of the residents were permitted to go out and be with family or friends.

Despite the advice not to go and meet family and friends, Allan and I chose to go and visit Juliette in Brighton on Tuesday 17th March. Juliette had not been home for a long time. She had to stay in Brighton to complete her final year as a student studying Fine Art. Not knowing what was ahead of us, we were pleased we went to see Juliette at her student house. We had a great time together but felt very uneasy. What was to come of all this? When would we see each other again?

Later that week, Juliette heard her art studio at the university was to close on **Friday 20th March**, and she would have to remove all her paintings and everything else that she had in the studio. It was all so surreal. How would she complete all her work? Juliette and one of her student housemates (who was also in their final year studying Fine Art) took it on themselves to set up a studio in an empty room at their student house.

On **Sunday 22nd March** Allan was feeling fine but was very tired. By late afternoon/early evening he was exhausted, did not feel very hungry and said he felt he should not go into work the following day. Not like him.

On **Monday 23rd March** Boris Johnson announced that there was to be a countrywide lockdown. We were only allowed to go out for exercise, food and medication.

By **Thursday 26th March**, Allan was not at all good. I called 111 for advice and was given an appointment to see a doctor at St Peter's Hospital that day. On arrival our temperatures were checked and we were given an apron and a mask to wear. We waited alone in a small waiting room. When we saw the doctor he wore full PPE. On examination he did not diagnose COVID, and his conclusion was that he thought Allan may have gastroenteritis, which did seem to match his symptoms. If things got no better in a day or two we should call 111 again.

**Tuesday 31st March** Allan felt worse. Phoned 111 for advice. Got a phone appointment with a doctor. If symptoms got worse within 24 hours, Allan may have to be examined by a doctor. **Wednesday 1st April** we went to the Hillview surgery to see the GP. Allan was told he may have the symptoms of the virus but could not have a test as there were no testing kits. Allan was prescribed medication and we were both told to isolate for 7 days, but we chose to isolate for 14 days.

Allan spent most of his time in bed for the next seven days, eating very little, very little energy. I had to encourage eating little and often, and ensure medication was taken. His breathing was not good. On

**Wednesday 8th April** Allan was back with us! He felt much better, more like his old self, but was very tired. It took several weeks to get his strength back. He did not sleep very well at night. Kalms were suggested, and given to me, which helped.

During our isolation period, friends very lovingly picked up prescriptions/ medication from the chemist, food and drinks from the supermarket. It was weird, but great. Having given out a list of things I would like to have, the doorbell rang. I opened the door to see shopping on my doorstep, and friends waving to me from a distance! One day I was asked if I would like a melon. A little later, the doorbell rang and there was a whole melon on the doorstep!

During isolation I was doing a lot of gardening. One of the days I found myself without compost. I knew I had some in the boot of the car, but I was not allowed to go out of the house. With the help of a neighbour, looking out for wandering pedestrians, it was safe for me to run to the car, grab the compost and run back again.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all those who helped us in any way, for prayers, phone calls, cards and for ringing the doorbell! The love and support gave me the strength to be strong for Allan.

*Having asked all of you for a lockdown story I could hardly not contribute myself so here goes.*

So how has life been in Spice Towers since 23rd March. Well, once a week I have my Citizens Advice duty day. Of course, as the office has been closed, I have had to hide away in a bed/sitting room at home advising clients on the phone. I sit surrounded by a laptop and the phone on one side and a keyboard on the other. The keyboard is only so close because

of the lack of room. One day, I was asked, along with other advisers, to photograph myself working at home and to submit it to the office. Unbeknown to me it was destined to end up on Twitter and (of course!) it was seen by a neighbour. They kindly commented that they didn't know I was a pianist. Well, that was news to me too unless you count chopsticks and being able to play the first line of Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring, as meaning I am a pianist! I nonetheless appreciated the comment.

When I venture out of my "office" I have to be quiet since the rest of the family are now "working" at home. I am no longer home alone. My wife is now in the "proper" office (yes, that's right I was evicted) where she remains ensconced throughout each weekday taking video conference calls on Zoom. My son is in the dining room where he spends the whole time tapping away at his keyboard whilst analysing spreadsheets and trying to make sense of them (apparently).

All this means that if I don't want to stay in my "office" on the other days of the week, then I am relegated to the shed. Or the allotment, which is not so bad, of course, particularly when the weather is good. See photo below of part of our allotment with plants that were delivered by an enterprising garden centre in New Haw during the lockdown period. You will see potatoes, onions, and leeks in the photo, plus gladioli on the left



and, in the background, my favourite flower of all time, dahlias.

Apart from the above, my life has not really changed that much. I am still head cook and bottlwasher (for some reason that escapes me) during the week and maybe if I am feeling keen (which is not often) out will come a bottle of bleach which I use liberally so making the whole house smell as though it has been cleaned thoroughly! Well, I always like to make a good impression.

When time allows and I am let off my “duties” I can indulge in such pastimes as choir rehearsals on Zoom. The musical director mutes us all so he cannot hear us, and we cannot hear each other, which is probably just as well given the slight delays which can occur online. Fortunately, we can see him conducting and hear the piano accompaniment, so it is not all a complete waste of time and it is a way of remaining connected. I have just participated in a virtual choir performance which saw me having to film myself singing (not a pretty sight). After much practice and then four takes I submitted the result and the final video was released on an unsuspecting public on 30 June. It is now on You Tube. If you are in any way keen to view it here is the link and thank you in advance:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCv29-qQojA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCv29-qQojA)

When I am feeling particularly keen it will be time for online yoga! This is when I have the opportunity to de-stress by practising various yoga positions that I have become more than familiar with in the last couple of years. Online yoga has been an entertaining experience if only because it turns out it can be just like being in an actual class. During my first session when I was still getting used to the set-up and positioning of my laptop, I was busy practicing my “Downward Dog” (as you do) when this voice suddenly said “Rob, your feet are not in the right position!” Gulp, I had no idea she would be able to see what I was doing so well. Please remind me to show you my “Downward Dog” now that I have perfected it. Although, by the time the lockdown is fully lifted you will have forgotten all about this offer or that you read this article (hopefully).

*It has been good to hear these stories and experiences and I thank you again for contributing and responding to my call. It has also been great to receive messages throughout this period too including the following message from Iranian members **Reza & Volga Naraghi**:*

"We are doing okay but still in isolation, hoping and praying that soon all this horrible pandemic will be over. Please give our regards to the Church Family."



*The final word, or should I say words, goes to the **Garden Gnome** who wants to tell us about her Mars Bar Garden. No, me neither, so here she is to tell you more....*

No, it's not the chocolate factory!

For those of you (like me) who are old enough to remember the early television advertisement slogan "A Mars a day helps you work, rest and play", well I often thought of my garden in that respect – let me explain:

The garden is long and geographically divided into three areas. Close to the house there are the two-level patios with BBQ

picnic table and chairs with lots of flowers in hanging and wall baskets, tubs and pots. Here we can spill out and enjoy the fresh air to entertain friends and family or just relax with a mug of coffee and read the newspaper. Not to mention the occasional game of skittles down the garden path.

Then comes the "busy bit" with greenhouses and raised vegetable beds, potting shed and numerous water barrels – this is the very heart of the garden. In years past it has provided us well with fruit and vegetables, the surplus of which is frozen and preserved for later use. This year we have crammed even more into this growing space and look forward to a good harvest. Not that we haven't had any failures mind, we couldn't grow a spring onion for love nor money!

The last part of the garden is virtually wild with two mature oak trees and a drainage ditch. This is where the wildlife lives, and we allow them this space. It also provides room for the compost bins or any plants in pots that are finished and need to rest and die back naturally until next year. We found to our great delight a hedgehog and her hoglet had wintered in the shed snuggly curled up together in an empty flower basket.

We can boast of the fattest squirrels in Woking as they feast daily on nuts put out in feeders for the birds, they stand on tip toe along the trellis and attack the feeders till the nuts spill out. They look like meerkats from a distance. However, my absolute favourites are the foxes. I love to watch their antics and have got quite close to them, sometimes I think they

watch me as they sneak up to the back door and steal my gardening shoes. They probably smell just right!

During the imposed lockdown we were so thankful to have a garden, (my heart went out to families cooped up in flats with young children). It gave us the motivation to keep active whilst being productive. In the quieter times of the day we paused to reflect on all God's creation right here at our fingertips, from the tiny insects, bees, butterflies, and birds, all going about their daily tasks unaware of our existence.

Although we are not able to walk beside still waters, we could gain a sense of peace and tranquillity which is very restoring. Now that the MUST has gone out of life, I no longer feel the pressures of the clock demanding my time. I appreciate more of the important things and pay less attention to the trappings of society, therefore I am more content. So, I seem to have learned more about myself through the garden than I thought possible.

Let's all hope and pray that this crisis will soon end, and we will be able to meet again in church to worship and give thanks for our deliverance.

So, you can see the garden is also a spiritual place where you can meet with God and work, rest and play.

In the meantime, take care, keep safe and remember, keep calm, keep gardening.

Love and God bless from the Garden Gnome – (aka **Christine Woodley**).

*For all those who are not so fortunate as us we pray at this time that they will know the love and care that God gives freely to us all.*

God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.

For those people who are worried about attending worship.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

Grant us your wisdom.

*(continued overleaf)*

(Continued from previous page)

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.

Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

God in Heaven and Earth, in these times of isolation, apart from loved ones and distant from friends, away from neighbours, thank you that there is nothing in all of creation, not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails continue to be shared through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far all recognising our shared vulnerability, each of us grateful for every breath, and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life. Keep us all in your care. Amen.

## Private Prayer at KMC on Sunday 2nd August

Further details will follow soon; but it will work something like this:

- ✠ Book a 20-minute slot in advance starting at 10am, 10:30 am, or 11 am.
- ✠ Provide and wear a face mask and gloves.
- ✠ Supply your contact details.
- ✠ Only 10 people will be allowed in the Worship Area at any one time
- ✠ You will be instructed as to where you can sit.



1. BEST IN PRAYER
2. THEY SEE
3. CASH LOST IN ME
4. ALAS! NO MORE Z'S
5. TWELVE PLUS ONE
6. MOON STARER
7. HERE COME DOTS
8. IS NO AMITY
9. I'M A DOT IN PLACE
10. WOMAN HITLER
11. A ROPE ENDS IT
12. DIRTY ROOM
13. LIES-LET'S RECOUNT
14. THAT QUEER SHAKE

**ANAGRAM ANSWERS**

# Good News - A New Life!

Whatever else is happening in the world it is always great to be able to celebrate a new birth. So many congratulations to Tarina Berry, whose daughter Kelly gave birth to Jack Henry on 4th July at Frimley Park Hospital. As we can see from the photographs, Mum, Dad (Adam) and Jack are all doing well. They are now back home and hopefully by now Jack is already adding to his birth weight of 8lbs 2½ oz. Well done all!



It's a **BOY!**

# Diamond Wedding Celebrations



6th August 1960 was a special day for long standing members of KMC, Marilyn & Tom Meller. This was the day they married at our church and now all these years later they are due to celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary.



They have been busy planning for this very special anniversary and although their celebrations will be more modest than perhaps originally planned, they hope to be joined by all of their family on the day. So, from all at KMC, many congratulations to Tom & Marilyn on their forthcoming Diamond Wedding anniversary on 6th August. Have a wonderful day. We will be thinking of you.



# News from Ruth Pugh in Dragapur

*Ruth is working in India for the Diocese of Durgapur, under the Church of North India (CNI) part of the Methodist Church. Her main role is to teach children music, specifically to play string instruments. She also trains them to be Cathedral musicians enabling them to play for all the services at the Cathedral. Ruth also coaches them to take The Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) and Trinity College London (TCL) exams. The ultimate aim is so they can get jobs as teachers teaching Western Music or playing professionally in orchestras. Ruth also works as a music teacher at a school in Perulia and at another school to help with music in pre-primary classes.*



Dear Friends and Family

Well, I am still in a strange situation as I haven't left the compound since 6th March. We will remain in lockdown in West Bengal until 31st July, with a few relaxations in areas where there is green or orange zones remaining, like for us here in Durgapur. Kolkata is the main hub for the virus in West Bengal. There have been a few ups and downs in other areas as migrant workers were brought back from other places where it was bad.

Bishop has started bringing in people for committee meetings, but everyone is checked at the gate for temperature and given hand sanitiser, as are all the employees on a daily basis. Every now and then Niraj checks my temperature as I never pass through the gate.

The children are still not back. The English Board exams were rescheduled for 1st to 14th July with a choice for students to take them, or not, using Pre-Board marks (mock exam marks). Priyanka opted to take her exams to lift her marks higher, so every day last week she came in and studied for three hours, then they cancelled them all again. West Bengal state has said schools can re-open after 15th August. Not sure yet of all the regulations but there are new ones coming in for hostels too, so waiting to hear what they will be.

The fruit trees here have all had a good harvest, especially the mangoes. As I cannot eat very much of the wonderful fruit at a time, I have made mango chutney and also mango and cinnamon jam so I will be able to enjoy a little at a time over a longer period.

On Father's Day, 21st June, The Women's Fellowships across the Church of North India were asked to make sure that they thanked their Pastors and Bishops for being spiritual fathers. So at the cathedral the Bishop and Father Sam were thanked with prayers, flowers, coffee and sweets. In addition, one or two other fathers were invited to join three of us from the cathedral Women's Fellowship who organized it.



*Bishop and Father Sam were thanked with prayer, flowers, coffee and sweets.*

Last Saturday, 27th June, was Foundation Day for St. Michael's School. The Principal, Mr. Mathew John, has just left and moved to Shimla, so the Vice Principal organised the day. Due to the current situation, just 7 members of staff, Father Sam, the Bishop and myself were present, and it was streamed out live to staff. It was just a short service but it did mean that the Day was remembered. (picture below)



We have not yet restarted services in the cathedral but we hope to at some point this month, making sure we have prepared everything.



1st July was the Foundation Day of the Diocese. The Diocese started on 1st July 1972 so there were special prayers, and as a Bengali custom, a delicious sweet was had by all. The picture above is of all the staff present on the day.

I have some good news. I am to be ordained as an Honorary Deacon (curate/probationer) on Sunday 27th September in St. Michael's and All Angels' Cathedral. There is an invitation to you all to come and join us. There will be two other ordinations that day, Santosh as a Deacon, who has just finished at Bishop's College Kolkata, and Sibhin as a presbyter. Hopefully then we shall have some children back so we can have music in the cathedral again. Otherwise it will just be the three people that live close enough who will be able to come. I shall serve in the cathedral part-time which will be in addition to my music responsibilities.

I understand that currently nobody really knows what travel will be possible in September and whether self-quarantine will still be in operation. However, if anybody is able to come and wants a room in Shanti Gria, please let me know and I can put you in contact with Mr Gorai for booking and prices. How many will be allowed in the cathedral and what social distancing rules may be in place all remain an unknown quantity at this time.

Please pray for:

- ✝ My continued good health.
- ✝ My preparations for ordination and that of the other two candidates.
- ✝ Our children and preparations to bring them back here.
- ✝ For the Bishop and the Diocese as it moves forward.
- ✝ For vacant positions in the Diocese, amongst them Principal of St Michael's and Vice Principal of St Peter's.
- ✝ For the cathedral and churches as they gradually open and for the safety of all.

I have missed coming back to the UK this summer and visiting family and friends. Now I do not plan to return until next summer.

Thank you all for your continued love and support,

Yours in Christ,

**Ruth**



### **News from the Circuit Office**

Recently, the Pastoral Committee of the URC Wessex Synod held a Zoom meeting and unanimously agreed the following:

“In the light of the clear indications of Godalming United Church that they wish to issue a strong call to Adam Payne to serve as their Minister at the earliest opportunity, the Pastoral Committee agrees to appoint Adam Payne as a Synod Minister to serve at Godalming United Church.”

Adam has accepted the call and is intending to move to Godalming in August to take up his appointment on 1 September 2020. The church gives thanks for Adam's appointment and looks forward to welcoming him and his family to Godalming and prays that his ministry will be a time of blessing for the church and the wider community.



# The Difference

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;

I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task.

“Why doesn't God help me?” I wondered, He answered, “You didn't ask.

I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on grey and bleak.

I wondered why God didn't show me. He said, “But you didn't seek”.

I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock.

God gently and lovingly chided, “My child, you didn't knock”.

I work up early this morning and paused before entering the day.

I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.



# The Breath Prayer

written by @Sheridanvoysey

The idea of the 'breath prayer' is to say the first half of each line as we breathe in, and the second half as we breathe out. However, with the content of this one it might be better to breathe out for the first half which is about receiving and breathe in for the second half which is about releasing.

This prayer is intended to be pastorally helpful.

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit

I receive your love & release my insecurity

I receive your joy & release my unhappiness

I receive your peace & release my anxiety

I receive your patience & release my impulsiveness

I receive your kindness & release my indifference

I receive your goodness & release my ungodliness

I receive your faithfulness & release my disloyalty

I receive your gentleness & release my severity

I receive your self-control & release my self-indulgence

Artwork by @starfishdesigns\_

# A Coronavirus Prayer

Generous God,

Fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old  
that we may look after one another in these challenging days.

Bring healing to those who are sick with the virus  
and be with their families.

May those who have died rest in your eternal embrace.

Comfort their family and friends.

Strengthen and protect all medical professionals caring for the sick  
and all who work in our medical facilities.

Give wisdom to leaders in healthcare and governance  
that they may make the right decisions for the well-being of people.

We pray in gratitude for all those in our country  
who will continue to work  
in the days ahead in so many fields of life for the sake of us all.

Bless them and keep them safe.

Amen.

**Dreamcatchers is now open again!**



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The Broadway  
Knaphill  
GU21 2DR**

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# Help out when you check out

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1. Head to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/knaphillmethodistchurch/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/knaphillmethodistchurch/) and join for free
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# KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey.

GU21 2DR Minister: Rev Dave Faulkner 01483 472524

minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

www.knaphill-methodist-church.com

Church Mobile 07756 711236

## SUNDAY SERVICES

This is a Q code - scan it with your Smartphone to go straight to our website



### **10am - Morning Worship** *(includes facilities for children)*

Our services are warm and cordial. We include traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, led by our Worship Group.

The sermons are Bible based and are sometimes themed over several weeks. Holy Communion is generally on the 2nd Sunday of every month. After the service everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments; a time for a chat and to get to know each other.

We have a special Family Area at the back of the church with lots of things for children to do.

### **6.30pm - Monthly Evening Holy Communion**

This is usually the 4th Sunday of the month, and is a small intimate service of Communion with about 15 or so people, some from other churches in the village. You are welcome to join us.

If you would like to worship on a Sunday evening when we do not have a service, our local Anglican church, Holy Trinity, Chobham Road, has a service at 6.30pm on the 1st Sunday of the month.

For further information see the notice boards outside the church or contact: admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

**ALL SERVICES ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED (SEE BACK PAGE)**

# **Services @ KMC**

**Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic we have suspended all church services, as well as coffee mornings, Clothes4U and other meetings.**

**Alternative methods of worship are available on our web site.**

**We'll be back to normal as soon as we are able to!**

## **Contacts:**

**Minister - Rev Dave Faulkner**

**[minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk](mailto:minister@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)**

**Administrator:**

**[admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk](mailto:admin@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)**

**07556 711236**

**Clothes4U:**

**[clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk](mailto:clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)**

**"Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."**

**John 14:27 (NRSV)**

**[WWW.KNAPHILL-METHODIST-CHURCH.COM](http://WWW.KNAPHILL-METHODIST-CHURCH.COM)**