

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED BY THE CHURCH IN



# ALDHAM



AUGUST 2020 [www.aldham-church.co.uk](http://www.aldham-church.co.uk)

## We're back!

*Dear Friends,*

Welcome to this special August Newsletter from Aldham Church! Summer is truly here; but still we have to exercise care with the risk of coronavirus. As we've seen in Leicester and Germany, second outbreaks can occur because carriers can infect others for 2 weeks before they know they have it themselves. So, let's stay safe, as much as we can! One of the reasons we've seen people gathering in large crowds have been public mass protests. The most recent have been against statues associated with colonial and racist history: that came out of the Black Lives Matter protests following the death of George Floyd. Before that were Climate Change protests, with Greta Thunberg leading younger activists, and then Extinction Rebellion. There were even the #MeToo protests against Harvey Weinstein and men like him who took advantage of power over women.

All of these protests begin with an abuse of power, an injustice that needs putting right. But all of them have found it difficult to set boundaries on protest, especially when their demands seem to fall on deaf ears. Is civil disobedience, and even violence, ever justified? How can you stop extremists from hijacking your cause? Jesus had zealots among his disciples, and on one occasion overturned market traders' tables in the Jerusalem Temple. To have any impact, a protest needs an element of shocking rebellion.

What can we do to respond? Christians should be standing up for oppressed people against injustice, and also in the vanguard of looking after God's good earth. Sometimes it's not easy to find the right response, and we need to pray for wisdom and creativity. We also need to pray for our leaders and politicians, to find the best way forward for all of us. This pandemic has been (and still is) a historic moment for all nations, as have been the mass protests that have been ongoing in the past few months. What would Jesus do?

With best wishes,

### **WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS**

Weddings and funerals can happen, but on a small scale and with careful hygiene. We are your church – please ask, and we'll do our best for you!

*Revd Ian Scott-Thompson*

***We exist to honour God and to enable people in our community discover Jesus***

## CHURCH ROTAS

### *Cleaning:*

Aug. Wendy Doncaster,  
John Pitts

### *Flowers:*

July 26, Aug 2 Janet French  
Aug 9, 16 Wendy Doncaster  
Aug 23, 30 Angela d'Angibau

*Churchyard:* Roger Walker, John Pitts

***Special thanks to those who did the big clean to get the church back for use, and to those who have arranged the flowers.***

## WORSHIP AT ALDHAM CHURCH

During the present crisis, the Church of England has not been gathering together for public worship for months. **However, we are able now to open for worship at 9.15am from Sunday 2 August.**

At the moment, these services will be Covid-safe, so, among other restrictions, social distancing will be observed and the wine at Communion will not be offered from a common cup, and we won't be able to serve refreshments afterwards. Perhaps the most noticeable difference will be that we are not able to sing, which we usually enjoy! How we proceed beyond 2 August will depend on how these first tentative steps turn out.

So for now, abnormal service will be resumed. Nevertheless, it will be good to be back together and we invite everyone to celebrate the reopening of the church after 4 months.

Please also make full use of radio and television for various church services. Websites also offer streamed worship if you know where to look for them!

*Revd Ian Scott-Thompson,  
Jan Rogan*

## WENDY PAGDEN REFLECTS

Nine months on from my appointment as Pioneer Minister in Stanway, my family and I have just moved into a new house in a new housing development: a new Rectory. 'Well, how's it going?'

There are no new churches - yet - but there are signs new growth. In spite of Covid-19 my focus has remained the same. In growing a new worshipping congregation, two things are key: first, relationships, for trust to be built and for 'loving one another'; second is also relationship, relationship between our spiritual selves and God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So many of the people I talk to who have no contact with church are deeply spiritual people who long for something which is not bound to the physical, materialistic every day of life. Paul talks about 'fanning into flame the gift of God' in Timothy's life (2 Tim 1:6), and that is what I find is behind much of my work.

So where is the evidence of the growth of the mustard seed of the Kingdom of God in Stanway? You can see it in the gathering of people who are praying for the pioneering work here (via Zoom), and in the beginnings of an 'Exploring Faith' group. Over Lockdown we have opened a **Stanway Foodbank** satellite in our church hall, with about sixteen volunteers drawn from church and community. We have also begun an online 'Stanway Cafe Church 4 All' at 4pm on 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoons each month, streamed live on St Albright's Facebook page. Could this Cafe Church be the beginning of a new worshipping community? I hope so. I pray so.

*Revd Wendy Pagden*

## WHO'S WHO

Priest-in-Charge	Revd Ian Scott-Thompson, The Rectory, Church Lane, Marks Tey, Col. CO6 1LW	01206 215772
Churchwardens	Mrs Coral Wingate, 79 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LS	01206 210369
	Mr Ken Thompson, 20 Hines Close, Aldham, Colchester, CO6 3RL	01206 210809
Secretary	Mrs Anne Matthews, 18 Scott Drive, Lexden, CO3 4JD	01206 575603
Treasurer	Mr Richard Gough, 12 Oaktree Cottages, Brook Road, Aldham, CO6 3RJ	01206 215688
Newsletter Editor	Mr Iain MacCallum, 9 Handford Place, Queens Road, Colchester, CO3 3NY	01206 571070

## **ALDHAM W.I.**

We're having a SUMMER SUPPER on **20 August at Hill House**, starting at 6.00pm. Members will need to bring their own food, drink and a chair. This event is subject to the weather permitting.

*Jean Jennings*

## **CLAIRE GEARY**

A huge thank you is due to Claire from all in Aldham for her relentless forwarding of relevant information for residents in her email 'Updates'.

## **ZOOM ...**

... is a conferencing system for your computer. It's used for everything from Cabinet Meetings to virtual tours of London and lots in between. It has been appreciated by many church-goers especially in Aldham and Marks Tey while the church could not be used for normal worship. But from 2 August on, we'll be back in the church on Sundays, though with restrictions. See the item on page 2.

We will probably continue with Zoom for the mid-week gathering, alternative Wednesdays at 7.30pm. If you haven't already used Zoom, and would like to join, please contact Iain MaCallum or Keith Rush and we'll tell you what you have to do.

## **THE WORLD RUN PLAN B**

In the February newsletter, Pippa Holme explained why her son Henry was about to take part in an intercontinental fund-raising activity to raise money for James' Place, a non clinical counselling service for those experiencing a suicidal crisis. It was opened in Liverpool in June 2018 by Prince William. Henry's father Tom, was a victim to suicide in 2012.

The Covid pandemic put paid to their original plans and instead, Henry and 3 friends ran from Liverpool to London in 8 days instead! The run finished on schedule on Saturday 11 July.

With regards to the fundraising for James'

Place, they are delighted to have already raised over £80,000 in donations towards a target of £100,000 which should enable James' Place to open a new centre in East London. If you'd like to make a donation, in memory of Tom, and help them break through the £100,000 mark, you could send a good old-fashioned cheque to

James' Place, 50 Catharine Street,  
Liverpool, L8 7NG

## **TECHNOLOGY AND THE NEW NORMAL**

CARE is a Christian organisation, at the heart of which is a determination to uphold the truth that human beings made in God's image are immensely valuable and deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion.

To that end they aim to be part of shaping the structures that we have as citizens in the UK.

In a recent podcast, four of their staff and supporters hosted a Zoom discussion on the role that Technology is playing and will play in the aftermath of the pandemic. They asked a number of questions.

### **Has the virus defined a new era for Information Technology (IT)?**

Telemedicine, that was generally frowned on by medics, became the norm almost overnight. It's as though the pandemic was a catalyst for it has produced innovation and adoption far quicker than normal. What, we wonder, would have been the course of the pandemic without the modern communications that are enabled by IT?

**How does the Christian faith address this technology?** Does technology help us to be more human? Since Pentecost, Christianity has become a global faith. As an example, Zoom, and other systems, has enabled some church services to incorporate mission partners from almost anywhere on the globe. It certainly enables us to connect, which is good, but are we developing relationships?

**How has the church responded to the**

pandemic given the availability of technology? At a local level, many churches have risen to provide internet available help. But at the level of the Public Square it has not spoken. The Archbishop of Canterbury led worship from his kitchen on the first Sunday of lockdown, but has not been seen or heard much since. There's been no call for a National Day of Prayer.

**The Digital Divide?** We may not have noticed it in Aldham, but the pandemic has accentuated the rich/poor divide. The middle and upper classes have had a good pandemic, by and large, but others have not. Many elderly people are on the wrong side of the divide. What can the church do to reduce this divide? What can it do to support the elderly and the less able and give them better access to the advantages of the technology?

Broadband creates its own fast/slow divide. You may be able to buy your way out of a slow broadband. Slow broadband is very limiting, as Aldham residents know. Fast broadband should be as readily available as clean water. The pandemic has highlighted this.

**Is Home working here to stay?** The advantages are obvious – less commuting, more family time – for those who can work at home. But the office is still needed from time to time to maintain relationships. It means Freedom with Responsibility for it to work. However, a huge number of people, mainly the less well paid, have to go to work.

**Online Education?** Home schooling is not ideal but it's better than nothing. But in this pandemic, it has been divisive. Not all pupils have access to fast enough internet. Where is the 'schoolroom' with respect to the router? Is the bedroom remote from central router. Where is it with respect to the family TV? How are pupils expected to catch up? Pupils have different abilities to absorb material from pre-prepared teaching material. Without a personal tutor some will be in great difficulty. Can technology reduce the inequality between abilities?

### Please support your local Traders

BOILER SERVICING	J Butcher 24 Gainsborough Rd. Sudbury CO10 2HT	07885 504036
BUTCHER	Willsher, 87 London Road, Marks Tey	01206 210365
CARPETS & FLOORING	Unit 1, Flyover Nurseries, 8 Coggeshall Road, MT	07973 407986
CARPETS & FLOORING	Tey Carpets at Home, 25 Keable Road, Marks Tey	01206 212826
COMPUTER ASSISTANCE	Roger Walker, 16 Hines Close, Aldham	01206 211143
DELOTO DOG GROOMING	Karen, Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey CO6 1LS	07970 990564
ELECTRICAL	Aaron Pearson, 1 Rowan Close, Stanway	07825 224420
FRENCH TUITION	Isabelle Hull, 42 Stanefield, CO6 1LX (up to GCSE)	07957 918546
FUNERALS	A. Birkin & Sons, 6 West St., Coggeshall	01376 561316
FUNERALS	Hunnaball, York House, 41 Mersea Rd.	01206 760049
FUNERALS	E. England Co-op, Stanway Retail Pk, Peartree Rd	01206 804911
FUNERALS	R. Gwinnell & Sons, 112 Ipswich Rd.	01206 868585
GARDEN & HOME MAINTENANCE	SJT, 59 Keable Rd. Marks Tey	07985 386758
GARDENING & ODD JOBS	Gary Todd, 3 London Road, Marks Tey	01206 212274
HOME CARE	Linmar Care, Godmans Lane, Marks Tey	01206 912311
MOBILE HAIRDRESSER	Sarah, 4 Norbury Close, Marks Tey	07884 005978
NAIL TECHNICIAN	Deeva Nails & Beauty, Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey	07516 699101
OPTICIAN	The Eye Centre 15 Market Hill Coggeshall CO6 1TS	01376 561156
OVEN CLEANING	D. Burton, Ashwells, Park Lane, Earls Colne	07850 550799
PHARMACY	86 London Road, Marks Tey	01206 212878
PLASTERER	RJB Plastering, 5 Rowan Close, Stanway, CO3 0QJ	07500 062430
PLUMBER	Mark Nayler, 1c King George Rd, CO2 7PE	07763 468391
REMOVALS & STORAGE	K. Dobbs, Unit 1-2, Bellhouse Farm, Stanway	01206 212444
ROOFING SERVICES	Daniel Wicks, 4 Honywood Close, Marks Tey	01206 212032