

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED BY THE CHURCH IN



ALDHAM



MAY 2020 (by email)

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

**Revd Ian Scott-Thompson writes...**

*Dear Friends,*

How are you coping? Many have said that the restrictions have been harder mentally than they expected – it's been a stressful time, even if we're only sitting at home. I've also heard many say that we must learn lessons from this: that things should not go back to the way they were. Let's not be vague about this – what would YOU change? One thing's for sure: we certainly can change things quickly, if need be! Marks Tey Churchwarden Andrew Waters has kindly written some reflections on the Coronavirus crisis, and how we can respond to it.

Since this Newsletter's electronic, I can recommend a short poem by Gideon Heugh on video, commissioned by TearFund, about the crisis. You should be able to find it at

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyhulTQUWTO>**

or browse to

**[youtube/tearfund/fear](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyhulTQUWTO)**

It's Easter-time, and we need to remember that Christ is Risen! This is not just pious talk, but it really means that death is not the end. In this crisis, we must not be transfixed even by the threat to our lives, but hold onto our risen Lord.

With best wishes,

**Andrew Waters (Marks Tey) writes...**

This month we should have been celebrating the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. The planned celebrations, like so many other things, have been cancelled, and much of the country is effectively closed. We are living through strange and extraordinary times that will stay in memories for generations. We are all in the same storm, and we all have a part to play in following the lockdown guide lines; but we are not all in the same boat. The most obvious is our health care workers, treating and caring for the sick and dying, at some risk to themselves. There are many other key workers.

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

There is understandable heightened concern for our more senior citizens, many of whom have ‘underlying’ health issues. The stresses of self-isolating on those not even allowed out: the lonely, those living in flats and apartments with no gardens or outdoor space, and on young people who don’t understand why they can’t see their friends. There are many small businesses wondering whether they will survive, and many employees wondering if they will have a job to return to.

Yet for others, despite all the inconveniences, stresses and restrictions, they are seeing and enjoying the blessings. Time to reflect on the important things in life, whether drawing closer to God or strengthening family bonds, without all the normal frantic demands of life. Returning to old hobbies. More home cooking, and appreciating the benefits of fresh local food. Enjoying the reduction in ambient background noise, the cleaner air and the ability to hear birdsong better. We have been aided by modern technology. Video calls to family and friends around the world. Seeing Church services and talks online and on YouTube. The congregations of Marks Tey and Aldham are linking in via Zoom on Sunday mornings.

There has been an outpouring of ‘loving thy neighbour’ – the number of NHS volunteers, simply looking out for friends and vulnerable neighbours; the establishment of WhatsApp groups. Whilst a number of local business and companies have found new ways to serve us in the delivery of food, and the availability of take-aways. I very much liked a piece, quoted by Roger Morris Bishop of Colchester in one of his Easter addresses from a book by Denise

Inge who died of cancer in 2014: “Humans cannot live without it. We can do without many things: without holidays, without delicacies, without as much money as we thought we needed – even, as I have come lately to see, without the promise of a good prognosis. But we cannot live for long without hope. Hope is not the same thing as optimism. Optimism says that things will get better. Hope says that the good we envisage is the good we work towards. Optimism is largely passive: it is about waiting for what is better to come to you. Hope is active: it goes out and does. It falls and fails sometimes, but is tenacious and unafraid, and it survives long after optimism is dashed. Optimism daydreams; Hope has confidence. It is awake. It will not let go of the notion that the good is real and we can find it.”

The sad reality is that our current troubles have a long way to run: many of us will grieve for a family member or friend lost before their time, and as a nation we will be financially poorer. Yet we have an opportunity to have a more valuable wealth if we follow Denise’s wisdom in being active. For Christians it maybe be in pursuing a deeper relationship with God, a source of hope. But we all have an opportunity in continuing to build strong bonds with family, friends, neighbours, community and local businesses. Actively caring for our environment – perhaps by seeking to continue working from home, so reducing traffic.

It will be a day to celebrate, when we can all meet our friends and family without concerns.  
*Andrew Waters*

**WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS**

Weddings and funerals can still happen, but on a small scale and with careful hygiene. We

**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 |

are your church – please ask, and we'll do our best for you!

*Ian Scott-Thompson*

## **PUBLIC WORSHIP**

In accordance with the instructions for the Church of England, Aldham Parish Church and St Andrew's Church Marks Tey, have to remain closed during the present crisis,

**However, the churches continue to hold a joint morning service every Sunday at 10.00 am using Zoom on our laptops and tablets.** (Ask Ian on 215772 for details.)

Please make full use of televised church services, Songs of Praise, websites, etc., which offer worship in different forms.

It's also a good opportunity to read your Bible, pray, and phone a friend to encourage one another.

## **A PRAYER BY A YEAR 5 PUPIL AT ST ANDREW'S MARKS TEY SCHOOL**

Dear God, we pray for those who are worried that they may get ill or might not have enough to eat in these difficult times. We also pray for those working on the front line especially those working for the NHS. Please protect all our friends and family, keep them safe and keep them healthy. Help us to get through these challenging times and let us be grateful for our families and our good health. Amen.

## **ALDHAM W.I.**

It seems unlikely that our May meeting will take place, but if the situation changes, I will contact members with our plans.

Keep safe and stay well.

*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'. The deadline for the next *Grapevine* is Friday, 8 May.

## **THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING**

*Some thoughts by Gideon Heugh, TearFund*

The UK has been placed on lockdown, and much of the world with it. Churches are having to close their doors. Worship-as-usual is over, for now.

Does this mean that church itself has been put on pause?

Well, no. Because church was never meant to be just bricks-and-mortar. This crisis could actually be a chance for the Church to be at its most Christ-centred. It's a chance for church to be church – to fulfil its mission to serve the most vulnerable and be a source of hope at a time when hope seems hard to come by.

We're built for relationship. We're made for community. We need each other. What that looks like in a world of self-isolation is something that we're going to have to figure out. We've already seen examples of it happening – people reaching out to neighbours who previously they'd never interacted with. Postcards popped through letterboxes offering help to people who are unable to go out.

*Gideon Heugh went to work at Tearfund after stints in the wine industry (which was as fun as it sounds) and the NHS. He's also qualified as a Personal Trainer and a Rugby Union Referee. As well as writing for Tearfund, Gideon likes to dabble in poetry and is currently working on a novel.*

## **JIGSAWS**

First it was toilet rolls, then flour that flew off the shelves. But now it's jigsaws that are becoming hard to find either in the High Street or online. Even at the national jigsaw mecca in Grasmere, the system has been crashing and most of the ones that I have fancied are out of stock.

Thanks to Ken Thompson, who keeps topping up the stock in the church porch, there are still a good number of FREE

jigsaws for you to take away and use. Please don't bring them back! We can't guarantee that there are no pieces missing, but past experience says they are usually complete. When Book Exchange comes back, we'll restock afresh.

## 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. For example for church services like ours. If you'd like to take part in our simple 10.00 am Sunday worship services, please contact the Rector on 01206 215772 for details, for we are not allowed to publish these on the internet. To join, browse to Zoom at 9.50 am and click on "Sign In" and follow the instructions. As a first time user, you will have to accept the download. It doesn't take long, but when it is on your computer/tablet you have to activate it, probably by double clicking. The Zoom icon should appear on your desktop. Leave it there ready for a quicker start next time.

In order to join, you have to type in the ID and the password (as given by the Rector) when asked. You should also type your name in the field when asked, and make sure you click to say you want 'audio' and 'video'. When you see Keith Rush, the host, you are in. There are 2 more things to look out for: (1) the normal display is 'gallery view', a rectangular grid of up to 20 partakers - if at first you don't see this kind of display, hunt around the screen for a small icon of 3 by 3 tiny squares and click it. (It's top right on my computer.) (2) Bottom left of the screen is an icon depicting a microphone. Clicking this mutes and un-mutes your microphone. Your host can over-ride this.

If at any time during the service you move away from your computer, the system recognises the absence of movement and it will blank you out! And everyone will notice!

## 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 Honeywood Close, Marks Tey         | 01206 212032 |