

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED BY THE CHURCH IN



# ALDHAM



MAY 2021

## We're back in Church! 9.15 am 2 May

### FROM THE RECTOR

*Dear Friends,*

How do you feel, about the gradual opening-up again, after Lockdown? At Aldham Church, we are re-starting worship services in the church building, at 9.15 am on Sunday, 2 May 2021, but of course with precautions against spreading any infection.

We also plan to hold a Thanksgiving Service for the village community, when we can show our gratitude for the NHS and key workers, and for the vaccination programme and the scientists and health workers who made it possible!

Later on, we shall also hold our annual Memorial Service, when we remember our loved ones who have died. Sadly, Covid has taken more than a few before their time, and we shall remember them particularly.

Commentators have called this past year 'the quickening', because of the way Covid has suddenly moved us forward 10 years in terms of the predicted shift to remote working, distance learning and medical consultation, ecommerce and online shopping, video conferencing, phasing out cash, changes to commuter travel and so on. The shops and businesses that have done well and grown are the ones that have adapted to this, while others have been cut off. It looks as if not everybody wants to go back to the old ways, and shops

and offices are closing to make way for home working.

Churches have found the same dynamic. Some have refused to pray online, and are longing to get back into the church building; but others have said how good it is not to have to travel, but to join with worship or meetings from your own living room. So, we will need to offer both options; and the churches that will grow are the ones with a strong online presence. We are hoping at the very least to record the readings and sermon; but ideally to offer a fully interactive worship experience online.

With best wishes,

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

## BACK IN CHURCH

Assuming lockdown does not return, there will be a 9.15 am service every Sunday with a communion (individual glasses) on the fourth Sunday of the month. All services will be held in restricted seating areas; masks must be worn; there will be live music, but no congregational singing. Please do not linger to talk as you enter or leave the building. We have a great churchyard in which to socialize, where you can still be properly spaced.

## ALDHAM W.I.

The next W.I. meeting will be on Thursday 20 May, 7.15 for 7.30 on Zoom. Our speaker, is Charlotte Wells, she will be telling us about the work of the Essex Wildlife Trust. The talk will be followed by our annual meeting. *Jean Jennings*

## CHURCH ROTAS

### *Cleaning:*

May Jane Smith,  
Lindsay Gough

### *Flowers:*

May 2,9 Angela d'Angibau  
Wendy Byford

May 16,23 Mags Constable

May 30,6 June Julie Orpen

*Churchyard:* Steve Jennings  
Andy Brown

## DIARY DATES

5 May 7.30 pm (Zoom) Talk on  
DVD by R.T.Kendall  
Principles of Prayer

19 May 7.30 pm (Zoom) Talk t.b.a.

10 July Marks Tey Open Gardens  
for the Church Tower appeal

11 July 9.15 am Prayer Meeting

## CORONAVIRUS - Some Ethical Issues

*Some thoughts prompted by recent news and an article by Philippa Taylor, head of Public Policy at the Christian Medical Fellowship in the Bible Society's quarterly "The Bible in Transmission."*

India has recorded the highest one-day tally of new Covid-19 cases anywhere in the world - and the country's highest number of deaths over 24 hours. (BBC news 21 April). The country is struggling with a second wave, raising more fears about its overwhelmed health care system. A number of people have died while waiting for oxygen.

India's second wave was fuelled by people letting their guard down when infection rates were low, attending weddings and social gatherings, and by mixed messaging from the government, allowing political rallies and religious gatherings.

Are we approaching a third wave? Infection numbers here are very low, as they were in August 2020, but then they began to creep up and we were into the second wave.

Even if the UK avoids a third wave, and we pray it will, the NHS now has an impossible job with a record waiting list of 4.7m – the highest for 14 years. Having just survived the latest Covid-19 surge, it is now faced with a new set of impossible ethical issues as it tackles this enormous waiting list.

As it was at the height of the pandemic, the allocation and rationing of scarce medical resources, presented difficult ethical questions. Who, for example, was to get the last intensive care bed? Who could have the last available ventilator? As the NHS tackles the back log, the scarce resources will be

## WHO'S WHO

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Churchwardens	Mrs Coral Wingate, 79 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LS	01206 210369
	Mr Ken Thompson, 20 Hines Close, Aldham, Colchester, CO6 3RL	01206 803418
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

exhausted consultants and theatre staff who now need a well-earned break.

How do the hospitals prioritise patients in the queue? What is the likelihood of survival? How likely will the procedure benefit an elderly patient? Would a younger patient recover sooner and be of more benefit to the community again?

Decisions like these suggest that 'utilitarianism' is the motive. The dictionary says of utilitarianism: an action is right if it results in the happiness of the greatest number of people in a society or a group. Or do they mean productivity? Where do people who work in care homes, or other essential services come in? Who decides whether someone on the list is an essential worker? Someone has to discriminate.

The death rate of those over 60 from Covid-19 on 22 January was 43 times the death rate of those under 60. The roll-out of the vaccinations in the UK initially discriminated in favour of the elderly, aiming to keep them alive and out of hospital. Later, vaccination was offered to lower ages, and by the end of April deaths of all ages from Covid-19 were less than deaths from other causes. This was an outstanding result of an unpopular principle.

Getting back to what has been called 'The New Normal' is not going to be any easier than facing up to the pandemic that has got us here. But how do we care for those requiring other treatments if hospital resources and staff are close to exhaustion? These are difficult challenges and we need to pray for wisdom for the healthcare workers who have to make these decisions.

*Iain MacCallum*

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS

This is the first paper newsletter since April 2020, and I'm reminded how much we have depended on the past, and

hopefully now in the future, on the newsletter distributors led by Jane Smith, who also does the printing. These letterbox saints rarely get named, so to: Jane Smith, Jean Jennings, Yvonne Tomassi, Ken Thompson, Anne Hodgson, Lindsay Gough, Janet West, Wendy Doncaster, Barbara Davis and Angela d'Angibau a HUGE THANK YOU. *Iain MacCallum*

## CHITRA'S EASTER GREETING

Chitra Karki, pastor of the 'New Life Church' in



Kathmandu, sends Easter Greetings to Marks Tey and Aldham Churches. His latest newsletter is full of good news! Covid-19 seems to be under control, in Nepal, in stark contrast to neighbouring India.

Their new integrated church building is well under way. Three

of the four floors are already in use. The ground floor is the 'manse', as Chitra calls it, where he and the family live; the first floor is the worship area (standing room only); above that an unspecified area for developing ministries; above that, the orphanage (12 children, 3 of whom are now school-leavers). They have a loan of about £12,000 to be paid off.

Together with Marks Tey, we commit to financially helping the orphanage. The Central Welfare Council visited the orphanage recently to see whether they are following their norms or not! They gave them a certificate saying they were doing good! More news on our website.

Deadline for June Newsletter

**22 May**

To: Iain MacCallum or  
Jane Smith, 7 Church Grove

## WORSHIP AT ALDHAM

*You are warmly invited to our services.*

*We sit socially distanced, but there is still room for a few more!*



2 May	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP <i>with Remembrance Lilies and flowers</i>
9 May	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
16 May	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
23 May	9.15 am	<b>PENTECOST</b> HOLY COMMUNION
	4.00 pm	THANKSGIVING (to be confirmed) <i>in the Churchyard</i>
30 May	t.b.a.	BENEFICE SERVICE



*Refreshments cannot be served during current restrictions*

## Worship at Marks Tey

1st Sunday	11.00 am	Morning Worship
2nd Sunday	11.00 am	Morning Worship
3rd Sunday	11.00 am	Holy Communion
4th Sunday	11.00 am	Morning Worship
5th Sunday	10.00 am	Morning Worship

**Many are the plans in  
a person's heart,  
but it is the LORD's  
purpose that  
prevails.**

*Proverbs 19:21*

## Please support your local Traders

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PLASTERER	M.J.Reeve, 5 Ashbury Drive, MT, CO6 1XW	01206 920462
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