



Parish of Wiverton in the Vale:  
One flock, One Shepherd, Six Pastures  
Notices 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

EASTER 5

From Revd Clare Connell

We have just celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war in Europe.



On that day 75 years ago, the country was able to at last heave an immense sigh of relief. No more conflict, no more fear of the knock at the door that could well herald news that devastated families or tore them apart; loss, uncertainty, and for many undiluted fear of what the next weeks, days or even minutes might bring.

The nation thanked God, thanked those who had given so much, and erupted into joy. Sadness remained, yet thankfulness for peace and a great hope that this would finally be the end of the war to end all wars.

Today we are all involved in a different type of battle; fear and uncertainty are shadows that beset us, even in the midst of days of blue skies, sunshine, a beautiful spring with an abundance of blossoms, flowers, verdant greens of trees and hedges, sounds of birdsong and the swallows back once more after their long and perilous journeys.

Our faith in God the creator of all good things, our faith in Jesus Christ our Saviour that binds us together, the churches stand empty but Jesus is with us. In psalm 73 The psalmist wrote, **“My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.”** We can thankfully add “and he is ours forever”.

Any of us may be struggling with issues of mind, body or spirit, not surprising, yet we can recall those words of Jesus, **“Come unto me all of you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest”**.

At this time, we recall as many have before us, those words from the book of Joshua **“Be strong and courageous, be very courageous”**. Our courage is needed in varying ways, perhaps in supporting others, perhaps in lockdown and isolation having the courage to look deep

inside ourselves, coming to terms with those things we regret (maybe a little repentance is called for) and thankfulness to God who forgives “all who truly repent”, then of course the courage to look forwards whatever the circumstances. Words from the book of Job echo down through the centuries **“having hope will give you courage. The Lord your God is with you wherever you go”**.

I have a wonderful stepdaughter, Lucy. She is working as an occupational therapist, partly in intensive care. Sometimes she returns home tired and exhausted, she self-isolates herself from her husband and family so as to protect everyone. She, like so many people, is a living example of Paul’s instruction in Galatians 6: 9 **“Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up”**

We are seeing extraordinary acts of courage in the N.H.S., in nursing homes, care homes, in all the services who support them; loving, sacrificial care within society in many different ways. We are witnessing communities coming together in new ways, reminding those (even older than myself) of the great spirit and coming together of people during wartime.

Captain Tom, now Colonel Tom, has shown us all a thing or two. His courage, determination, modesty, humour and enjoyment as he - just short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday - walked and walked up and down his garden. He had hoped to raise £1000 for the N.H.S. The money flowed in, his walking went viral, now it has exploded to raising in excess of THIRTY ONE million pounds. His example raised in so many, the will to help, he has caught our imagination and admiration. His song has topped the charts, “Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart and you’ll never walk alone.”

God bless Colonel Tom and all the unsung heroes and heroines of this time. We give thanks for them all.

May the Holy Spirit guide us all. The Lord our God is with us wherever we go.

**“Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

## Christian Aid Week, 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May



**"Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts is all, but love unites us all"**

Please see our Parish website for [further details](#).

### Pause for Prayer and Reflection

Rev Rachel will be leading the [online service this Sunday](#), Rev Fred Connell will be preaching and Katharine Bacon (Reader) will be leading us in intercessions. Please find the relevant readings below. If you would like to join in with the responses during the service, the [‘Order of Service during Easter’](#) can now be found on the website.

### Acts 7: 55-end

<sup>55</sup>But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

### John 14: 1-14 (*New International Version*)


**14** “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

<sup>9</sup>Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup>Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.



Nothing can separate us  
from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord

Romans 8:39

## **Starry, starry night!** (From Edward Hine)

[One of my favourite songs](#), written about Vincent van Gogh, my favourite artist, sung by Don McLean and as good, if not better, than his 'American Pie', which is high praise indeed. It is inspired by a painting he did in 1889, titled, not surprisingly, [Starry Night](#) and it shows a very sinister, dark night relieved by some swirly stars.

Our world has changed recently, and it can feel like, as depicted in the painting, that all is dark and, if not sinister, then perhaps worrying, depressing or challenging at best. To begin with, Lorrie, Charles and myself were not sure what was going to happen, but we have developed a routine with deliveries and collections of food and other essentials and we feel blessed. But what can we do to help others? We are self-isolating like many, so are avoiding all but the most essential contact which physically limits our ability to help others.

Personally, I am reading more, exercising more and even cooking more as I am determined to try to gain some positives out of this enforced isolation. But also, I am praying more as I have more time and there is a lot more to pray about! As such I feel as close to God as at any time in my life. But whilst prayer is essential what practically can I do?

I received an email a week last Monday from Michael Harvey entitled 'How to keep a locked-down church on mission.' Perfect! In a nutshell he uses the mnemonic ACORN by which he prays for guidance as to the action he can take and then waits for a 'nudge' from God and then acts upon it. The nudge might be immediate or perhaps comes later. There is more to it than that and [details are on the website](#) but why not try? The action could be as simple as ringing someone you don't normally ring or haven't rung for a while and find out how they really are.

The world is a different place and I am sure that people's perspective on it may be changing and as such the seed thrown by the sower might now have a better chance of falling on fertile ground?

Finally, let us not forget that we need the darkness to appreciate the beauty of the moon and stars, so there may never be a better time to shine! Also, Vincent painted Starry Night portraying the sky just before daybreak and we can take comfort that the current challenging times will pass, as sure as day follows night.

## War against Worry

On Radio Nottingham, earlier this week, the Baptist minister from Watnall Road Baptist Church in Hucknall talked about a book he has written for people like himself, who are habitual worriers, to help them overcome their worrying and start living free from anxiety. It's called War Against Worry and is a 31-day strategy by Simon J. Robinson. It is free to download from [www.wrbc.co.uk](http://www.wrbc.co.uk) - the link is easy to spot.

## The UK Blessing song

Sometimes we all need to know how much we are loved, and to feel the Blessing of God and others descend on us. [Visit the link on our Parish website](#) to receive a special blessing from Churches around the UK, to remind you that you are blessed today.

## Dial-in worship phone line

A free national phone line available **24 hrs a day** on **0800 804 8044**. Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

## A prayer in the midst of coronavirus

### God of healing,

Surround us with your love as together we negotiate the complexities of coronavirus.

Guide us all as we seek to support one another.

Help us to be attentive to the lonely, the isolated, the fearful and those who are ill.

Mindful of the geographical isolation of many rural communities, we pray for everyone involved in the effective provision of food, medical supplies and pastoral care.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who walks alongside us in our difficulties.

**Amen.**

*(From the Arthur Rank Centre)*

**PRAYER MATTERS:** *Please remember in your prayers this week:*

Guidance for the leaders in government and health officials as they make exceedingly difficult decisions.

We give thanks for:

Our hard working and faithful NHS staff, and all key Workers.

Those we know who are recovering from illness.

The community support groups in our villages.

Our homes.

We pray for:

Ourselves as we persevere in adjusting to this new season.

Those facing the financial impact of these times.

Families facing severe hardship and children missing their school meals.

Food banks, that they might find the resources they need.

Our farmers and all who are involved in the processes that take our food from field to table.

Good growing weather.

Gentle spring rains to enable crops and grass to grow.

Sufficient workers now and when harvest comes.

All who are self-isolating.

For those with existing and chronic health conditions.

We remember;

Those we know and love who are sick at this time in body, soul and mind. And, we also remember the family and loved ones of those who have died recently.

Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayers.

### **Note from the editor**

Please send anything you would like to contribute to the Parish administrator on [administrator@wivertoninthevale.co.uk](mailto:administrator@wivertoninthevale.co.uk) or 07592 873751.

**£ HOW CAN WE GIVE?** The Church of England receives no government funding other than some tax concessions, and our churches are dependent upon money given or raised locally to fund their ministry and upkeep, including heating, insurance and maintenance.

Since we are not able to host services, if you are not already contributing by standing order, this might be the right time for you to consider this.

*If you would like to find out more about this, or to change an existing order, please contact Max in confidence via:*

[treasurer@wivertoninthevale.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

### ***Keeping in touch; staying informed***

*These notices are posted week by week on the Parish website:*

[www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk](http://www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

*Paper copies are available at church services.*

*To receive a copy of these notices by email every Saturday, please subscribe to the website notification service at*

[www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/subscribe)

### **Key Contacts**

#### **Rev'd Rachel**

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*phone:* 07944 992178 N.B **Rachel's day off:** Friday

#### **Parish Administrator**

*Anna Hemati Kang Sofla:* 07592 873751

*Email:* [administrator@wivertoninthevale.co.uk](mailto:administrator@wivertoninthevale.co.uk)

*Anna can direct enquiries to the most appropriate person.*

#### **Safeguarding Officer / Coordinator**

*Gareth Parker the Safeguarding Coordinator for the Parish, and any concerns regarding a safeguarding issue should be directed to him.*

*07738 091338 or [gareth.parker@wivertoninthevale.co.uk](mailto:gareth.parker@wivertoninthevale.co.uk)*

**Further information and contact details can be found on the parish website at [www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/whos-who](http://www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/whos-who)**