

Kit 9 Keeping in touch – The Parish of St Mary's Chidham

Dear All

Welcome to Keeping In Touch (KIT) 8 and we hope you have had a good week. Many of you will have taken part in the various 'At Home' VE Day celebrations, including the Big Picnic. We hope you had a happy time.

The first task this week is to wish our Lay Reader, Colin Ottewell, a very happy 80th birthday!! It is his birthday today (9th May) and we send him our very best wishes for a very, very happy day. Colin contributes so much to our worship in the parish and we are most grateful for all that he and his wife Val do. I am sure I am not the only one who is amazed to discover you were born in 1940 – it does not seem possible. More of that later.....

This Thursday will be Ascension Day and we would have been holding an evening service in St Mary's. However instead Canon David Nason has very kindly provided an **Ascension Day message** which you will find attached. Thank you David, your words are always very welcome.

As ever we are very grateful to Stephen for the **pewslip** and the musical links.

Although we 'celebrated' Easter Sunday five weeks ago, we are in fact still making our way through the Season of Easter, which will conclude with the feast of Pentecost on 31st May. Maybe the words of encouragement that Jesus gives to his followers at the beginning of the gospel reading this week can help us as we live through the current situation. This reading also contains the familiar wording "*I am the way and the truth and the life*". I always remember this being explained to me at Sunday School in this way "When we are lost, Jesus is our Way, when we are confused, Jesus is our Truth and when we are tired, Jesus is our Life". I'm not sure I really understood it then but it has stuck with me.

This Sunday we are expecting to learn what the next few weeks will bring and whether or not the lockdown will be eased. Whatever is announced I think it is fairly certain that our services will still be suspended for some time yet, therefore here are some alternatives you may be interested in.

SERVICES FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

As usual, the weekly **Sunday Service** on BBC **Radio 4** is at **8.10am**.

This week the theme is

'*What sort of victory?*'.

'Dr Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College Cambridge and former Archbishop of Canterbury, asks how our nation can rise to its present huge challenges as it seeks to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. The service is taking place as the country marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the bicentenary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. VE commemorates victory on the battlefield after uncountable suffering and loss, but the 1945 Victory in Europe also marked the beginning of a social transformation, in health, education and housing. Recently we have seen another herculean national effort invoking the name of the nation's most famous nurse, who also forged her reputation and skills in a time of national crisis. What are we building today? What does the moment require of us, not just in solidarity now but in the years to come, in shaping a more compassionate world? The service will be lead by the Bishop of London and one time Chief Nursing Officer Dame Sarah Mullally, who will speak about the significance of Florence Nightingale for NHS workers today.'

There will be a **live service** on the **Church of England's** website and on their Facebook page at **9.00am**. This week's service is a celebration of nurses and healthcare workers with Bishop of London and former Chief Nursing Officer Sarah Mullally leading the service in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Chichester Cathedral are continuing to deliver **live streamed services**. You can access these at www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/services/live-services just click on the link and it will take you to the page with instructions on how to view live.

Sunday Worship on **BBC1** is being shown at **1045**. The bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, leads the service for VE Day from Hereford Cathedral, which was filmed before the closure of all church buildings was announced.

Their first hymn this week is '*He Who Would Valiant Be*' also known as '*To Be a Pilgrim*' is the only hymn John Bunyan is credited with writing and appears in Part 2 of *The Pilgrim's Progress* which he wrote in 1684 while he was serving a twelve-year sentence in Bedford Gaol on a charge of preaching without a licence. For a time Bunyan's original version was not commonly sung in churches, perhaps because of the references to "hobgoblin" and "foul fiend", but I rather like it! You might enjoy this traditional English folk version of the hymn:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yHJMPw8RHU>

The words were modified extensively by Percy Dearmer for the 1906 *The English Hymnal*. At the same time it was given a new tune by Ralph Vaughan Williams, who used a melody taken from the traditional song "*Our Captain Cried All Hands*" which he collected in the hamlet of Monk's Gate in West Sussex (near Hosham) when assembling English folk tunes. Happily, the original words have now come back into favour in some new hymn books such as '*Common Praise*'.

Songs of Praise will be broadcast at **1.15** on **BBC1** and makes the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.

In the Easter weekend KIT we mentioned the Radio 4 programme **Bells on Sunday**. This week it is worth a mention again as it features the bells of Westminster Abbey recorded during the VE Anniversary celebrations in May 2015. There are ten bells with a thirty hundredweight tenor tuned to D. They can be heard ringing "Rounds" interspersed with the art of "Firing" when the bells are deliberately struck simultaneously - a traditional method of marking a celebration. It's difficult to achieve well and is rarely practised and is heard in honour of the VE Day anniversary. It is broadcast at 0543 (!) but return to the website later to hear it again (just put Bells on Sunday into your browser).

One other programme that you might like is this week's edition of **The Food Programme** (Sunday BBC Radio 4 1232). It is entitled '*The Kitchen Front: How wartime food strategies influenced our eating ethos*'. As the UK marks a VE Day anniversary like no other, Sheila Dillon hears how the food legacy of WWII has influenced our modern diets - and considers what lessons we could still learn from the wartime eating ethos. "*Making do, digging for victory, the hedgerow harvest, the garden front: food and farming was front and centre during the Second World War, with hearty phrases like these encouraging the population to pull together and do their bit for the national diet. Now, 75 years after Victory in Europe was declared, we're hearing similar language in political speeches and across the media, as we "wage war" against coronavirus, in a country under lockdown. The rhetoric might be*

extreme – but as Sheila Dillon discovers, there are lessons to be learnt from the wartime eating ethos; particularly in this current climate of store-cupboard cooking, making do and reducing food waste”

CHRISTIAN AID

The coming week is Christian Aid week when we normally receive a familiar donation envelope through our letter box which is then collected by a volunteer. This year with the current situation this will of course not happen. However, Christian Aid are still in need of our help and you can make a donation online:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

THY KINGDOM COME 2020

‘Thy Kingdom Come’ is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. The event takes place between 21-31 May and you can sign up to find out more here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/thy-kingdom-come>

ANOTHER FISH AND CHIPS ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Fish & Chip shop in Bosham is now opening on Thurs, Fri and Sat from 4.00pm – 9.00pm. Telephone orders can be made on 01243 576388.

BEST NEWS OF THE WEEK!

WSCC household recycling centres will be open from this week. Social distancing measures will be in place, the number of people visiting at any time will be restricted and there may be limits on waste which can be accepted but.....they are open!
HURRAH!

ON THIS DAY

I mentioned at the start of this KIT that Colin has a significant birthday today. The day he was born was momentous for the fact that it was the day that Neville Chamberlain decided to resign, making way for Winston Churchill to become Prime Minister on 10th May. It is unclear whether Colin’s arrival had anything to do with this but we thank him anyway!

Other occasions of note to happen on this day are:

In 1386 England and Portugal formally ratified their alliance with the signing of the Treaty of Windsor, making it the oldest diplomatic alliance in the world which is still in force.

In 1662 the first Punch & Judy show to be given in Britain took place at Covent Garden (that’s the way to do it!)

In 1671 Thomas Blood, disguised as a clergyman, attempted to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London. The jewels could be viewed by the payment of a fee to the custodian and Blood had made several previous visits to case the joint, ingratiating himself with the custodian, going so far as to arrange a marriage between the custodian’s daughter and his fictitious nephew. On 9th May 1671 Blood convinced Edwards to show the jewels to him, his supposed nephew, and two of his friends. After striking the custodian down with a mallet Blood used it to flatten the crown to

hide under his clerical coat. As Blood and his gang fled to their horses waiting at St Catherine's Gate, they dropped the sceptre and fired on the warders who attempted to stop them. They were chased down by Captain Beckman and although Blood shot at him, he missed and was captured before reaching the Iron Gate. Bizarrely, Blood received a royal pardon, some say it was because the King had a fondness for audacious scoundrels such as Blood, and that he was amused by the Irishman's claim that the jewels were worth only £6,000 as opposed to the £100,000 at which the Crown had valued them!

In 1887 Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show opened in London. This coincided with the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The Prince of Wales requested a private preview of the Wild West performance and was impressed enough to arrange a command performance for the Queen. She enjoyed the show so much that she arranged for another command performance on 20th June for her Jubilee guests. Royalty from all over Europe attended, including the future Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Colin also shares his birth date with, among others, Howard Carter, who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun, literary figures Alan Bennett, J.M. Barrie and Richard Adams and an actual birthday share with James L Brooks the American TV and film director who brought us The Simpsons! Doh!

MORE VIRTUAL 'STUFF' TO TRY!

A visit to Stonehenge

The English Heritage site boasts an official virtual tour that offers 360 degree views, as if you were standing in the middle of the mysterious stone circle.

It's an interactive offering, so you can click on specific points and learn more about the history, without missing out on highlights that a guided tour would have pointed out.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/>

360° Tour of the Houses of Parliament

<https://www.parliament.uk/visiting/virtualtour/>

Check out Canterbury Cathedral

Get a sneak peek of the cathedral's incredible architecture and beautiful artefacts in this extensive tour which offers a floor plan where you can select the rooms you're interested in for 360 degree camera views. Highlights include the Bell Harry Tower and the Crypt.

<https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/virtual-tour/>

THE LIGHTHEARTED BIT!

The answers to last week's quiz are attached – hope you managed to solve the clues to the Prime Ministers and US Presidents. This week you need to turn your attention to the high street!

MORE WISE WORDS FROM LAURIE

Following last week's top tips, Laurie has provided a few more valuable pearls of wisdom to set you up for the coming summer months.

Garden Parties

A garden party is a very popular kind of entertainment and one which does not put so great a social strain as some upon the hostess. For a large function, invitations should be sent out about three weeks in advance, by means of printed cards bearing the words "Garden Party" instead of the usual "At Home" and if tennis, clock golf or dancing is to be a feature, this should be added across a corner of the card. Arrangements should always be made for the cars of guests and for hospitality for their chauffeurs in the servants' hall.

Sunburnt Skin

To restore the natural colour to sunburnt skin, hydrogen peroxide is the quickest remedy. It is an excellent substance for bleaching the skin. It also stimulates the functional activity of the skin glands, thus helping materially in rejuvenating it.

An Uninvited Guest

It goes without saying that it is a breach of good breeding for a lady to take with her an uninvited guest when accepting an invitation at another friend's expense, for instance when being entertained to lunch or dinner, a theatre or concert. Yet instances of this do occur and an offer to pay for the interloper would not right this error of taste.

To Whiten your hands

Take 1 wineglassful of lemon juice and 1 of eau-de-cologne. Cut into very thin slices 2 cakes of brown windsor soap and melt it over the fire. Add the eau-de-cologne and lemon juice, stir together and pour into a mould. When hard it is suitable for use.

To Prevent Greyness

Take ¼lb lard and 4 drams of spermaceti (*a waxy substance found in the head cavities of the sperm whale*) and melt together. When nearly cold stir in 4 drams of oxide of bismuth and a few drops of perfume. Use when dressing the hair

Hope you are finding these tips useful!!

And **finally**, a prayer for this weekend:

Lord our God, our defence in trouble and our refuge from the storm,
hear us as we remember and pray on this 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe,
help us never to forget the sacrifices which won for us our freedom,
and bless your world with peace; **Amen**

Have a safe week and God bless you

Carol & Willem