

Ministry Message from Alison

*January brings the snow,
Makes our feet and fingers glow.*

*February brings the rain,
Thaws the frozen lake again.*

*March brings breezes sharp and shrill,
Shakes the dancing daffodil.*

I wonder how many of you remember that rhyme from your childhoods? It continues in rhyming couplets through the rest of the months of the year and I don't know about you but I'm certainly ready for March's dancing daffodils and April's primroses. It has been a long, tough year since we went into the first Lockdown on 16 March 2020. The initial flurry of activity, cleaning out cupboards, lofts, garages, filing systems and so on has long since faded into the mists of time, as have those days over the summer months when we could actually have a few friends in our gardens and share a cup of tea and some cake or maybe have a visit to a tourist attraction or even attend a church service.

So many things which we just took for granted suddenly came to a full stop and we all had to rethink how we lived our lives, what we could and couldn't do, where we could and couldn't go and who we could and couldn't be with.

At the end of 2020 I drew up a list of things which I felt I'd learned during the previous nine months. It included things like learning how to use Zoom and how to make a decent lemon drizzle cake. Pretty high on my list came 'The importance and value of old friends.' Although to be honest I think that was something that I knew already, it was just that Lockdowns and un-Lockdowns had reminded me of the fact.

I come from a fairly small family. Although my mother was one of eight children and my father one of seven, I am an only child as was Ian, my late husband and so apart from a few cousins, close relatives are few and far between but I have always been blessed with a fantastic network of friends and never have they been more important than over this last year. I am still in touch with friends from pre primary school days, from primary and secondary schools, from colleges, from workplaces, from churches, from social and other groups to which I have belonged over the years as well those whom I have met in other settings too numerous to mention and what a blessing they have been. During the last twelve months we have kept in touch via phone calls, texts, social media, emails, Zoom meetings and would you believe even by good old fashioned letter and card writing. We have laughed together, cried together, kept each other amused by sending silly jokes, shared helpful



information and above all we have supported each other. But I realise that the important thing about all my friends, wherever I met them and know them from, is that we have some shared history, so that we can reminisce about things. We can say 'do you remember when....?' In most cases we also have some shared values, as I suspect most friendships without at least some shared values probably don't stand the test of time.

I think Jesus understood the value and importance of friends and friendship. Right at the start of his ministry, after his baptism, he took himself off into the wilderness to pray and to be with his heavenly Father, to prepare himself for the work he had to do. Immediately after that he set about building his network of friends who would be with him on this journey. They were a fairly mixed bag including fishermen, a tax collector, a Jewish freedom fighter, a Hellenistic (Greek speaking) Jew and others whose background we know little or nothing about but despite their apparent differences they started to build up shared experiences, a shared history of their time spent with Jesus. They learned from Jesus but they were also his friends. There were others who were part of a wider network of friends, Lazarus, Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene, Nicodemus. Joseph of Arimathea, Cleopas and others but all with a shared history of being with Jesus in some way.

We always tend think of the relationship between Jesus and his followers as being a bit of a 'one way street' with Jesus doing all the 'giving' but I'm pretty sure that, as with any friendships, there would have been some two way traffic. Jesus wasn't just their leader, their teacher, he was their friend just as he is ours.

And after Jesus death, this group of friends supported each other. They didn't leave Jerusalem and go back to their homes. They stayed together, sharing their grief but also their memories, their shared history and experiences over the past three years, their 'Do you remember whens?.....' Together, as friends they witnessed the appearances of the risen Jesus. As a group of friends they saw him taken up into heaven and as a group of friends they received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Shared history, shared experiences, shared values all the ingredients of long lasting and supportive friendships

They always say you can't choose your family but you can choose your friends. I love my family, small as it is and I also value, cherish and appreciate my friends. And I like to think I can count Jesus amongst my friends and even though I can't communicate with him via Zoom or email or WhatsApp. There's always prayer and the bonus of that is it's not reliant on the strength of the signal or how reliable my equipment is. It's always available.

Remember

*What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear*

*What a privilege to carry
 Everything to God in prayer
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit
 Oh, what needless pain we bear
 All because we do not carry
 Everything to God in prayer
 Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged
 Take it to the Lord in prayer
 Can we find a friend so faithful
 Who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness
 Take it to the Lord in prayer*

Friendship



SMILE and RAISE MONEY!

Tom Beesley has today registered our charity Halewood Ecumenical Partnership with Amazon Smile. If you pick us as your chosen charity, everytime you shop on Amazon they will make a donation to us. It doesn't cost you, the customer, anything.



So if you haven't already chosen a charity or would like to change your charity just click on the link below next time you shop at Amazon or when you are invited on the website to pick a charity, just search for Halewood Ecumenical Partnership

Thanks everyone Alison

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1151632-0>

From: Andy Radford Bingo at 3pm (Every Thursday)

Hi Alison - I am forwarding you the details of a weekly bingo event Diane Richardson is doing. This is in case you can think of anyone who might like to join in. They are very friendly. Diane & Evelyn invite you to a ZOOM meeting.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8893789982?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8893789982?pwd=eEN3QTdNd25QVHBnSTc5REhoVEFpQT09)

[pwd=eEN3QTdNd25QVHBnSTc5REhoVEFpQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8893789982?pwd=eEN3QTdNd25QVHBnSTc5REhoVEFpQT09)

Meeting ID: 889 378 9982 Passcode: BINGO

BINGO

12	25	41	51	63
3	30	37	54	66
7	21	FREE	56	74
1	26	35	50	69
10	17	45	47	64

MILTON BRADLEY COMPANY
Springfield, Massachusetts

FREE ALL-IN-ONE PRINTER/SCANNER/COPIER

Anyone who wants a printer EPSON SX435 should contact the Editor via Email 'colinwest9@gmail.com'. It can print via the supplied cable, scan or copy in colour or B/W.

If desired, a donation to charity may be made.



Saturday Coffee@St Mary's

It's nearly six years ago since the new shopping centre opened in Halewood and members at the St Mary's felt that this was a great opportunity to reach out to our local community. As our building is used during the week for the nursery for under fives and the care centre for the elderly, the best time available was Saturdays. We decided to open the building up and invite local people to join us for nominally priced coffee and cakes. We were immediately successful and the offer was soon extended to include bacon

sandwiches

and toasted teacakes. We have a regular clientele both from our churches and the community as well as occasional visitors. We are staffed completely by volunteers from both our churches and the community, who do approximately one duty per month. However, we are willing to take on new volunteers, so why not call in one Saturday between 10.30am and 12.30pm for

well as occasional volunteers from approximately always not call in 12.30pm for

St Nicholas Club

The club meets each month from 1.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. at St Nicholas Centre, Church Road. The aim of the club is to be a platform for people wishing to get into painting watercolours or to encourage those

POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE - CORONAVIRUS

Painting

month on Mondays 3.30 p.m. at St Nicholas Church Road. The aim be a platform for people into painting ours or to encourage those

CHRIS- BLESS-

There are back of St

The idea is to do something positive in Lent rather than "giving something up". The focus for this year is Climate Change which is an important subject for all of us.

The leaflets include daily reflections and prayers as well as suggestions for raising some money for Christian Aid to help those in the world less fortunate than us.

There are adult and children's versions and more can be ordered from

TIAN AID LENT - COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS 2020

some "Count Your Blessings" leaflets at the Nicholas and St Mary's Churches.

TIME TO CLEAN YOUR OVEN? LET US DO THE JOB YOU HATE



- Ovens
- Hobs
- Grills
- BBQs
- Ranges
- Extractors
- Microwaves
- AGAs

Call Paul or go online for your FREE quote!

07789 114557
ovenclean.com



Weddings at St Nicholas' church 2020

28 December	David James Armstrong	Katie Louise Patricia Smith
31 December	Anthony John McEvatt	Lindsay Marie Frances Reid

TRADECRAFT CATALOGUE AVAILABLE

Penni Conlon has been in touch to say that the new Tradecraft Autumn

Winter Catalogue is now available. It includes Cards and other Christmas items

If you would like Penni to drop one off for you please email her on colonpj@btinternet.com

Alison



NOTABLE CHURCHES : ARTICLES WANTED!

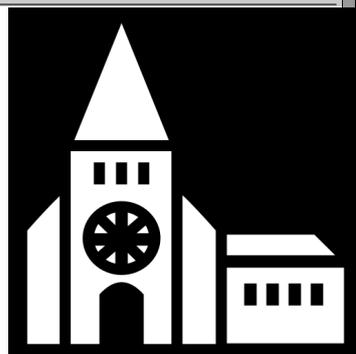
Whilst travelling around on holiday or perhaps funerals or weddings, I have often been impressed by interesting churches. And so, I have often included articles on those churches.

The annual pilgrimage to churches (and cakeshops) has featured for the last few years with the history and architecture of them.

Liverpool has many interesting churches eg the Iron Church at St Michaels and obviously our two cathedrals.

If on your travel, you come across one that impresses you, or has an interesting story, then why not take some pictures, write some words and SEND IT to the MAGAZINE via my Email :

colinwest9@gmail.com



Working with the children and young people in the parish

Would you like to work with the children and parish? As a parish we are able to offer a for children and young people from birth These take place 6 days a week (in are held at both churches. We rely run the groups each week. All vol-obtain a DBS Disclosure and at-GUARDING course at least Here in

Halewood we are very for-people who have com-our SAFEGUARDING dures and have authorised by with the chil-people. How-ways a need and helpers If you are inter-leader/helper at

young people in our variety of activities to 21 years old. term time) and on volunteers to unteers need to tend a parish SAFE-once every 5 years.

tunate that we have 92

**POSTPONED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE
- CORONAVIRUS**

pleted proce-b e e n HCC to work dren and young ever, there is al-for more leaders for all of our groups. ested in becoming a any of our groups, or you





BOSCH



Relax, with the UK's most warmly recommended boiler brand...

...guaranteed for up to 10 years*.

Be as **#WarmAsWorcester** with the UK's most recommended boiler brand.

As a Worcester Accredited installer we can offer up to 10 year guarantees* so you have the peace of mind you'll be cosy and warm all winter long.

For more information call us today.



07831 105 818

www.gasphit.co.uk

GASPHIT Service Ltd

ALL GAS MAINTENANCE SERVICE & INSTALLATION

*Terms and conditions apply.

Secret Knights Templar caves beneath a Shropshire field

The entrance might look just like a rabbit hole but the tunnel leads to a stunning cave with a fascinating place in Shropshire's history.

The unassuming hole is the entrance to a man-made cavern, hidden less than a metre beneath a farmer's field. The Shropshire caves date back around 700 years when they were used by followers of the Knights Templar – a medieval religious order that fought in the Crusades.



These images come from photographer Michael Scott, from Birmingham, who set out in search of the historical wonder after seeing a video of it online. Some chambers are so tiny that those exploring have to enter them on hands and knees.

The Caynton Caves, hidden in dense woodland near Shifnal, were apparently carved out of sandstone by followers of the Knights Templar.

The Knights Templar were a wealthy order of knights created in 1129 by the Pope who wore distinctive white mantles with a red cross over their armour. Its original purpose was to protect pilgrims from bandits on their journey to Jerusalem.

It is said that the hand-made caves in Shropshire were used as a secret place of worship.

The Templars built their churches with circular naves, in imitation of the circular Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. In

2012, it was reported that the owners of the caves closed them to people wanting to visit after they found they had been filled with candles, graffiti and rubbish. The entrance to the caves was sealed up in attempt to keep the trespassers at bay. There are rumours that the caves have also been visited by pagans and druids wanting to hold ceremonies, and are popular at solstice and Halloween. It is thought the caves have now been opened again although the Shropshire Star has been unable to contact the owners.

The caves have also been explored by Shrewsbury photographer Chris Schurke, who runs a blog called Shrewsbury From Where You Are Not, documenting his pictures of the county from unique perspectives.



Taken from TelfordNews and UCatholic.com

Howie Electric oven repairs

8 Almond Close, Liverpool L26 1XL

- **Same day call-out**
- **Free call-out and estimate**
- **All work guaranteed**

56 HIGHER ROAD, LIVERPOOL L25 0QQ
Call Howie or Carol Blakeborough

Telephone: 0151-448 1201 Mobile: 01744 814169

Fax: 0151 281 2508

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Natasia is in need of some extra volunteers on a Tuesday to support the work at Yew Tree Primary School. We are in need of someone to support the church craft lunch club which is every Tuesday 12:30-1pm and also be an extra adult during the Drama after every Tuesday

**POSTPONED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**



ter school club

3:15-4:15pm. Please contact

Natasia if you could offer some help, even if not every Tuesday.

**SOME WEBSITES/APPs to INSTRUCT and
EDUCATE DURING ISOLATION!**

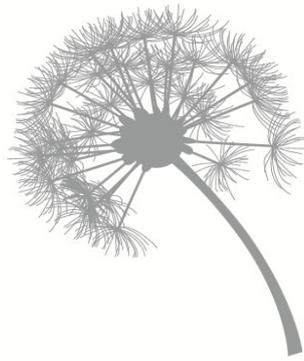
HYMNARY.ORG

HYMNSof PRAISE TJC app

**And of Course, one can communicate
with Friends & Relatives using ZOOM
Cloud app! Or try HOUSEPARTY!**

**Sing to
the Lord**





Craven and Moar & Butler

Funeral Directors

With you every step of the way

Independent funeral homes owned by Mr Craven,
serving Widnes, Hale and South Liverpool.

"We can arrange a funeral specifically to suit you,
whether it be a simple and straightforward
cremation or a traditional full-service burial."

Our standards are as high as you'd expect yet our
charges are very reasonable. Please visit our
website to learn more about us.

We're here for you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

0151 495 2482

458 Liverpool Road, Widnes WA8 7XP

0151 424 5432

9 Dickson Street, Widnes WA8 6PW

www.moar-butler.com

0151 228 3900

14 Broadgreen Road,
Liverpool

www.cravens-funerals.com

and branches throughout Liverpool

Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea

Kat Griffin and her amazing team of cake and sandwich makers are planning another afternoon tea delivery on Sat 13 March for Mothering Sunday weekend.

Details including how to book a delivery are included in the attached flyer

Thanks Alison

SATURDAY
13th March
Delivered between 1pm - 3pm
within a 3 mile radius

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
ST NICHOLAS &
ST MARY'S FUNDRAISING EVENT

*Mother's Day
Afternoon Tea*

£8 for one £15 for two

Selection of Sandwiches (served on white and brown bread)
Cheese & Pickle
Ham & Mustard
Egg Mayonnaise & Cress

Homemade scone served with strawberry jam and clotted cream
Selection of homemade cakes
Tea (milk not included)

Please email Halewoodchurches@outlook.com
or contact Kat on 07973772178

Raffle Tickets- £1 a strip to win a luxury food hamper

ARK: Archive Resource for Knowsley

Whilst closed for Covid, the website is available. There is lots of information on ARK. Search for 'ARCHIVES.KNOWSLEY.GOV.UK' to find the history of Knowsleys townships eg Halewood, Prescot etc. It's well worth a visit! ***After all, YOU'RE PAYING FOR IT!!***

This Pandemic Life Project

So what's this project all about? Well, having been an art journaler for many years, I know that journalling is a great way to look at, think about, and deal with things going on in your life, and let's face it, this year we've had a lot to deal with! I think it would be good to have a record of some of our feelings and memories of this time.

If you would like to join in, please do your contribution on a piece of A4 card. (If you don't have any, I can deliver to you if you're within walking distance or organise something if you're not.) It's up to you how you express your thoughts, feelings, memories or whatever about what is suggested by the title 'This Pandemic Life'. I cannot say often enough: there is no right or wrong way to do this. Whatever you want to do on your sheet of card is okay. Whether you write, scribble, paint, draw, collage, sew, paint the whole thing black, or write 'I hate this!' in wax crayon - just express yourself. There will be no judgement, no prizes, you are all winners because you're still here. If you want to, you can sign your work, and if you prefer it to remain anonymous, that's fine too.

Once your piece is done, get it back to me (or let me know and I'll collect it) by Ash Wednesday, which is Feb 17th. Then I will bind them all into an accordion book and make a box for it. Once we are able to do church all together again, we can display the book in each of our churches. Before that I'll take photos of each piece and talk nicely to Ken about putting a slide show together.

A few pointers and tips if you're not sure where to start:

Write a list of words that describe 'This Pandemic Life' for you.

What colours does 2020 make you think of?

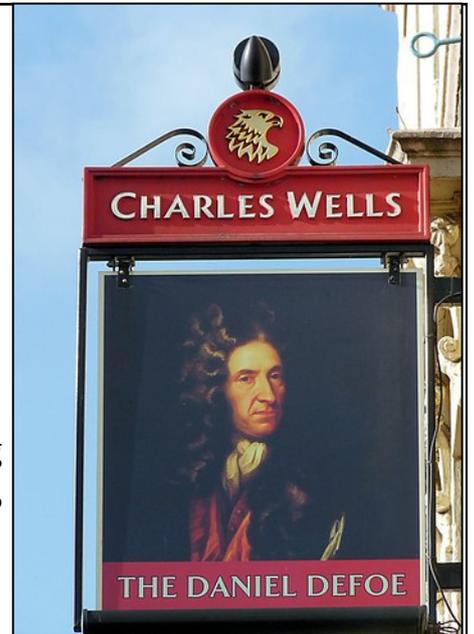
Do your feelings about this year conjure up any particular pattern in your mind? (Don't overthink it, just go with what pops into your head)

You can use a mix of pictures, words, pattern, pictures from magazines, anything you like.

If you're writing, you could use a mix of fonts, sizes, and directions of writing to add interest. Don't be afraid to use your own handwriting!

If you have any questions, please ask. tracywoodsford@gmail.com

Tracy Woodsford



EASTER CHICKS for SALE!

Frances Smith normally sells little knitted Easter chicks with a cream egg inside to raise funds for our churches at Easter.... so if you would like to order any knitted Easter Egg chicks. They are £1 each and you can place your orders by ringing or texting Frances on 07594248173 If you want a particular colour please let her know (There may be a few in Liverpool or Everton colours available). Thanks everyone Alison



Lent 2021

Lent 2021: when does it start and why do people 'give up' for Lent?

It's observed by individuals from various churches and sects of Christianity, including the Anglicans, Methodists, Reformed and Roman Catholics.

The festival is part of the church's liturgical year

which includes advent in December and other major Christian holidays such as Christmas and Easter. But what is its origins, when does it fall in 2021, how long for and how is it observed?



What is Lent?

Lent derives from an old English word 'lencten', meaning spring season, when the religious festival is observed each year.

It takes many forms but is generally a period of reflection and preparation, with many fasting food and festivities before Easter.

This can be done through prayer, penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving and self-denial.

Few still fast for the duration of Lent, which marks the sacrifices of Jesus Christ in the days leading to his crucifixion, but it is still observed.

According to the Bible, Jesus went into the desert to fast in preparation for his ministry during which time he endured temptation by Satan.

Lent, for many, is a time for giving up certain luxuries, such as chocolate, alcohol, smoking, to demonstrate their own sacrifice and to reflect those made by Jesus.

Christians are "encouraged to find [their] own method of confronting [their] sinfulness, remembering [their] mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation [they] receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ," according to the United Methodist Church.

When is Lent 2021?

In 2021, Lent begins on Wednesday 17 February and ends on Saturday 3 April.

It begins on Ash Wednesday, which follows Shrove Tuesday, when priests gather ashes from previous Palm Sundays and rub them on the heads of their congregation.

It is also a time for people to enjoy making and eating pancakes.

How long is Lent?

Lent is 40 days long to reflect the 40 days Jesus Christ spent in the desert leading up to

his crucifixion, which this period includes.

It is a six-week festival, not including Sundays, in the build up to Easter when Jesus rose from the dead three days after he was executed.

The period of 40 days has significance in Jewish-Christian scripture.

The flood which destroyed the Earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain, in Genesis. The Hebrews spent 40 days in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God. Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the 10 commandments.

What is Holy Week?

Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday and not only symbolises the end of Lent but it also marks the lead up to the celebrations of Easter.

It includes Maundy Thursday (the day of the Last Supper) and ends on Holy Saturday and is described as "the most solemn week of the Christian year".

By Kieran Doody Bournemouthcho.co.uk

SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Just a quick note to thank Linda for the beautiful card made for our anniversary, it has pride of place on the mantelpiece. Alison asked us to send a photo of the gifts sent by the team for the magazine. We had to take two as I don't know how to set the timer on my phone!!! The gift of a silver wedding rose was so apt as "The Rose" by Bette Midler was our wedding song. Thanks to all those who organised it and for thinking of us. Nicola &

Jim Hutton



HAPPY SILVER ANNIVERSARY from the TEAM!

Church Fundraiser- Scented Candles for sale

Now I know how much everyone has missed having a bit of retail therapy, so to help you out whilst you wait for the Roadmap to get to the 'reopen the shops' stage.....

We have some gorgeous scented candles for sale to help raise funds for our churches

The candles are in a tin and I have attached some photographs to give you an idea of what they look like. We have two fragrances:

Citrus, lime and mandarin;

Mandarin leaf and oud and before you ask-

Oud is an expensive middle Eastern perfume described as warm, smoky and sweet....

Anyway they both smell lovely and Kate Cooper and I have tested them. These are our reviews:

Both varieties fill the room with fragrance very quickly. The candles are long lasting and burn well and evenly, not just burning down in the centre.

They will make ideal presents for Mothering Sunday, Easter, birthdays or other occasions or just to treat yourself. Go on, you know you deserve it. The candles are £8 each and all

the proceeds will go to church funds

If you'd like to order any please email me and I'll sort out collection/delivery and Payment. Thanks everyone

Alison

Ps please feel free to share this with others

