

Thoughts during Lockdown

These are strange times. Doctors have always warned us that a pandemic would occur sometime. Now it has happened, it confirms how ill prepared we were, and how governments all over the world have tackled the challenge with varying degrees of success. It is appalling that a single case in China has multiplied to bring the world to a standstill.

So what have I been doing in the standstill? We are lucky to have a big garden and I also have hobbies like music and painting. I have done a lot of reading, some theological, some fiction. My wife Anne looks after me and our daughter Joanna does our shopping. Life progresses happily but it is strange not meeting up with people.

I remember one of our clergy group saying that daily prayer was the foundation of life. I have found this to be true, particularly at this bewildering time. The little card produced by the Diocese is a helpful guide. Pray for friends and family, someone living near or someone at work, places in the world where there is so much suffering, the government and all responsible for leadership, surgeons doctors and nurses tackling the coronavirus, all those who are ill in hospital or nursing homes, those who mourn, those who are suffering in body mind or spirit and the poor and marginalised, and all who have lost their jobs. I also pray for the Church, our Bishops, the diocese, deanery and particularly for our Benefice. It has been lovely to keep in touch by ZOOM. This maintains the sense of community which is so important.

Every morning I wake up, look at the view and thank God for creation. We are so lucky to live in this part of Somerset. We pray that the lockdown will be ease and that things will get back to normal in the not too distant future. Shortly we will be able to use our churches for private prayer. They are 'holy places' where people have prayed over the centuries through numerous crises.

Here is a prayer that I use each day:-

O Lord, we bring before thee the griefs and perils of nations; all those suffering from coronavirus, especially those in hospital; the helplessness of the aged and the weak; the sorrows of the bereaved; the anxiety of millions in lockdown all over the world. comfort and relieve them, O merciful Father, according to their several needs: give us courage and determination to overcome this evil in our midst; for the sake of thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Canon John Simpson

DENISON DEANERY DASH – For our CMS Partner and friend Anne Plested in Palestine/Israel

WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 13 July

MONDAY Staple Fitzpaine
 West Hatch
 Stoke St Mary
 Orchard Portman
 Corfe
 Pitminster
 Otterford
 Churchinford
 Birchwood
 Buckland St Mary

TUESDAY Ham

Combe St Nicholas
Walmbrook
Whitestaunton
Tatworth
Chard St Mary
Chard Furnham
Chaffcombe
Donyatt

WEDNESDAY Hatch Beauchamp
Beer Crocombe
Curry Mallet
Isle Abbots
Isle Brewers
Hambridge
Whitelackington
Ilminster

THURSDAY Thorncombe
Winsham
Cricket St Thomas
Cricket Malherbie

FRIDAY Ashill
Ilton
Broadway
Horton



Many of you will know Anne whose parents and sister ran the village post office in Hambridge. She served as administrator both here in the Isle Valley Benefice and in Chard, and was our deanery secretary for some years.

She is now teaching English and helping out generally at Bethlehem Bible College. But with churches and charities struggling to meet their financial commitments in the current challenge of covid 19 CMS are being stretched to meet the costs of people like Anne.

So in the week beginning 13 July I am going to try and visit all 35 of our lovely churches in the Ilminster Deanery by bicycle to raise as much as I can for Anne (target £3000). This covers an area from Thorncombe in Dorset, Orchard Portman on the outskirts of Taunton, Churchinford in the Blackdowns,

and Whitelackington in the East. You can wave me on or join me on any part of the ride you wish (ask the churchwardens or Sarah Crook for my mobile number).

And if you'd like to support Anne then the easiest and most direct way is to do a search online for Anne Plested CMS and follow the links to the giving page where you can also add gift aid where appropriate. This will give you more info about Anne. You may prefer to donate cash or cheque via myself. Either way do let me know please so I can keep a running total and know how near to my target I can reach. Feel free to make it a pledge dependent on the success of my mission.

On behalf of Anne and CMS may I thank you in advance

Revd Phil 01460 259155 denisonphil15@hotmail.com

Dear Friends,

I would like to introduce myself to you all;

My name is Philip Albrow and I have recently completed studying theology and formation at Sarum College in Salisbury. My home diocese is the same as yours i.e. Bath and Wells and my home Benefice is the Seven Sowers Taunton and consists of seven rural parishes.

I live near Hatch Beauchamp with my wife Sue and we have three sons all in their twenties and all living away in various parts of the world.

I still work part time as a director in a house building company and like to worship and relax with my church friends as much as possible. Also, when I have time, I enjoy photography, walking the dog, reading, gardening and flying.

I will soon be spending more time with you all as I join Phil and the team as your 'new' curate and deacon in the Isle Valley Benefice and very much look forward to meeting you all in due course. I know that you have a lot to teach me and I promise to be attentive to your words and deeds as we seek to move with the Holy Spirit.

"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body....." (1Cor 12:13)

See you soon!

Philip.



JULY 2020

Readings for July 2020

	PSALM	OLD TESTAMENT	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
5 th July Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Psalm 145 8-15	Zechariah 9 9-12	Romans 7 15-25a	Matthew 11 16-19, 25-end
12 th July Fifth Sunday after Trinity	Psalm 65	Isaiah 55 10-13	Romans 8 1-11	Matthew 13. 1-9,18-23
19 th July Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Psalm 86 11-end	Isaiah 44 6-8	Romans 8 12-25	Matthew 13 24-30,36-43
26 th July Seventh Sunday after Trinity	Psalm 119 129-136	1 Kings3. 5-12	Roman 8 26-39	Matthew 13 31-33, 44-52
2nd August Eighth Sunday after Trinity	Psalm 145 8-9,15-end	Isaiah 55 1-5	Romans 9 1-5	Matthew 14 13-21

FROM THE REGISTERS

From January 2016 'Anniversaries' will normally only be included for 5 years after a death. If you would like the name of a loved one included for longer or on a special anniversary please contact the Parish Administrator.

Funerals

We commit to the Lord's loving care, praying that he will comfort, strengthen and guide their families:

17th June Alan Wrenn Broadway (Taunton Crematorium)
18th June Pam Swain Horton

Anniversaries:

We remember, with thanksgiving, the life and witness of:

11th July Ashill Marjorie Lily Emma Sparks
14th July Broadway Alan Ramsay
18th July Horton Ruth Sims
19th July Ashill June Andrews
20th July Ilton Ethel Florence Hutchings
25th July Hambridge Sylvia March (Memorial)
27th July Ashill Arthur Woodland
30th July Donyatt Marilyn Vaux

Intercessions

In praise and thanksgiving to God for His goodness, we pray.

Benefice Prayer Cycle

Please Pray for:

The people of Ashill St Mary and Ashill Baptist Church
The staff and pupils of Ashill School

We pray for all those in positions of responsibility, making crucial decisions affecting the lives of many people. May they find strength and wisdom.

We pray for all employers and employees within our local businesses as they open, with safety measures, after lockdown.

We give thanks that some churches are able to open for private prayer as the lockdown is gradually eased.

We give grateful thanks for the rain, so welcome for the farmers and gardeners.

Isle Valley Benefice Prayers
will continue at 9.15am every Monday via Zoom meeting

Isle Valley Benefice Prayer Circle is privileged to pray regularly for all.
The Circle will also pray for any people in particular need at this time.



If you have any special prayer requests please send them to:
Reverend Phil Denison, email: denisonphil15@hotmail.com
or Sarah Crook (Adminstrator) islevallybenefice@outlook.com
All requests will be confidential.

Sunday Evening Service



All are welcome to join Reverend Phil Denison as he leads an Evening service

Time: Every Sunday evening at 5.50pm.

Place: The service is held using Zoom.

Details from Rev. P. Denison. E mail: denisonphil15@hotmail.com
Sarah Crook (Adminstrator) E mail: islevallybenefice@outlook.com

For those without access to Zoom, you may like to join in lighting a candle during a minutes silence at 6.00pm

In the light of the latest announcement from the government, we are pleased to say that we are now able to make arrangements for services to take place in our church buildings. Due consideration of all safety precautions will be taken and announcements of details and times of services will be made within each parish as soon as possible.

Letter from the Right Reverend Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells

Building a sustainable and hopeful future

One impact of the Coronavirus pandemic is there is now a lot of talk about the need to change and to re-imagine society, in order to build a sustainable and hopeful future. This is to be welcomed. However, change is something that we always have to live with. The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, writing some 500 years before Christ, was a great proponent of this. He is known for saying: 'There is nothing permanent except change' and that you cannot step into the same river twice. By this he meant that just as the river flows so that you cannot touch the same water twice, so no two situations are exactly the same and that the world is constantly changing.

We live in a time of extraordinary change. Self-driving transport is now practical, not just for cars, but also perhaps more alarmingly for ships and aircraft. Artificial Intelligence is opening amazing new possibilities and medicine is advancing rapidly as the decoding of the human genome increases our understanding of many diseases. At the same time our world groans under the weight of lifestyles and exploitation of resources which are not sustainable. I am writing this on World Environment Day and it is becoming increasingly clear that we need to change the way we live before we wreck even more havoc on the world which God has given us to steward and care for.

But in looking for change we need perhaps to look in rather than out. I remember once reading someone saying: 'You can't change what is going on around you, until you start changing what's going on within you'. Or as Tolstoy put it: 'Everyone thinks of changing the world. But no one thinks of changing themselves.' It is sometimes said that if 'we change the way we look at things, the things we look at change.' There may be so truth in that and perhaps we need to use this time of lockdown to continue to reflect on what it means to look at the world through God's eyes and to live faithfully in God's world so that we all play our part in building a sustainable and hopeful future.

Every blessing ,Bishop Peter

ASHILL BAPTIST CHURCH

A Message from the Minister

For me, one of the positives of this very strange and difficult season is that Christian unity in the Isle Valley has taken a step forward. For some time we have had occasional united services bringing Christians of different traditions together. But during lockdown many of us have been worshipping together regularly every week, courtesy of 'Zoom'. Our thanks to Revd Phil Denison for initiating and facilitating this.

Another positive has been the opportunity to re-evaluate - to think about what really matters in life - those bedrock values that make life worth living. One of the down-sides of churches owning buildings is that the buildings start to own us! Their upkeep devours our time, our attention, our energy and our money. Of course, they are also a wonderful resource and in many cases beautiful as well as useful. But during this time when our buildings have been closed, we have been reminded that without them we can still be church - we can still offer worship to God and service to the world, fulfilling the mission entrusted to us by Christ.

So it is good for us to remember that Jesus did not say, "they will know you are Christians by your church buildings". He said, "they will know you are Christians by your love." Love for God and love for neighbour - even love for enemies - this is the heart of his teaching.

So here is one more positive to celebrate in the midst of the heartache of this pandemic crisis - the countless examples of love shown by so many - whatever their faith or philosophy.

Let this be the light that keeps hope alive.

Norman
(Minister of Ashill Baptist Church)

Barrington and District Gardening Society

With our Society meetings being cancelled until it is safe again to resume and our popular Annual Plant Sale sadly not been able to materialise, Robin has kindly set up a group Facebook page, where our members can share their garden pictures, gardening anecdotes and plant / seed swaps. There is currently a 'Virtual Plant Sale' on the go, with members submitting the plants which they would have kindly donated to the sale, onto to the group page. Members can then bid for which plants they would like to buy, with all donations going to a charity of a member's choice, (perhaps the member who bids for the most plants)! An email has already been distributed to members, explaining how Robin would like to see this work, which would enable to include, those members who do not use social media. Members who have plants to donate, should send Robin a list of all plants, so this can be circulated to all members who are not in the Facebook group. That list will also be uploaded to the group page with photos of the plants available. The link for the Facebook group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2710049232365684>

Any distribution / collection of plants and money, can be organised between the buyer/seller (taking into account social distancing etc) and the money forwarded onto Robin at some point when restrictions have eased. For any further details, can you please contact Robin either on the Facebook page, or on 01460 54691.

And just to add a final cheery note, Garden Centres are now back open!! Albeit under the government protocols, but certainly beats trying to phone through an order! An email should have been received by all our members on the new shopping system at The Gardens Group and it will certainly be good to support them again, as they are very supportive of our Gardening Club.

Keep well and safe, we look forward to meeting up with everyone again soon, let us hope maybe we may get the chance of a scaled down outdoor Summer Show.

ASHILL

The Church of St Mary

Ashill Website: www.ashillvillage.net

www.facebook.com/ashillvillage Email: ashillvillage@hotmail.co.uk

Ashill Church will be open for private prayer between the following times from 9 July:

Thursday	10.30 - 11.30 am.
Sunday	10.00 - 11.00 am
Tuesday	6.30 - 7.30 pm

Our thanks to Peter and Sylvia Smith for cutting the grass and trimming the path during these difficult times. Thanks also to John Hoare and Alan Knight for what they do and are about to do - virus permitting!

Ashill School PTFA Fundraiser

Simply bag up your old clothes, linen, bags, belts and paired shoes, towels and bed linen (no bric a brac).

Drop off to Marika Sterry at: Wylands, Windmill Hill. TA19 9NU
(just 1 mile from school).

Before Wednesday 15th July.

Please leave outside metal gate, thank you.
Tel: Marika on 07900 196614 for further information.

Or bring to school and put in Rosanne's car on school days at 9.30am or 12noon
message ahead please on 07773 031238

Alternatively, if you wish to arrange a collection, please contact Sabrina Welsh-Morris
Tel: 07533 919350



DONYATT

St Mary's Church

During this COVID-19 crisis and resulting lockdown, the Village Hall hasn't been entirely dormant. In succession, we have been working our way through some fairly major refurbishment projects – re-finishing the floor, and re-lining and decorating the North wall. The end result is quite pleasing! However, to complete the job, we want to hang some photographs of 'Old Donyatt'. If anyone has any old photographs that we could borrow while we get them copied, framed - and then return to you, then we would be most grateful.

Please contact Bill Porritt on 01460 259996. Thank you.

HAMBRIDGE

St James the Less

Village Website – hambridgeandwestport.org

Thank you, Arthur and Catherine for this lovely sign for the churchyard.



The church is going to open for private prayer from the beginning of July on Mondays at 11-1 and Thursdays at 6-8pm. We'll be following safety procedures and someone will be on hand to help if needed. You are very welcome to use the church at these times and we look forward to seeing you there.

Sadly, this month the Vicarage House Nursing Home closed. They did a brilliant job during the recent problems and I know from experience the care and dedication of the staff. The Vicarage was built in 1844. The first incumbent was the Rev Charles Grueber, who served for 50 years.

Rev. Grueber had a large family and as a result an extra storey was added to the vicarage. He died in 1894 and a year later Rev Charles Marson took over. He was a friend of Cecil Sharp, the music teacher, who came down to visit him in August 1903. This event was the start of the Edwardian Folk Revival. Marson died in 1914 and a sequence of clergymen followed right up to Father Wallis in the 1960s.

The vicarage became a residential home for the elderly in the late 1970s, but we are bit short of the history between Father Wallis and Andrew Wison and family, who we believe first converted it to a retirement home, calling it Glenavon. Perhaps you could help us with the missing years? Just a few thoughts Louise and the staff working unpaid to help resettle the residents from the Vicarage. What a trauma for the residents on top of all the other worries. And Linda making up "goodie bags" for all the staff. Nick and Henry cutting the canal bank. Karen and Tom taking i-pads to Musgrove. Cookie keeping us alive to nature, Jude and many others making scrubs, the entertainment group cheering us up. An extra Phil arrives as if by magic, Friends posting letters, collecting prescriptions and shopping. Zooming everywhere with family quizzes. Social Distancing encounters. The discovery of beautiful walks. Groceries and shopping appearing on the doorstep. Old friends phoning. Yes, it's not all been gloom.

And now to get fit! Whilst there is not a men's football team in Hambridge, there is an excellent one in Barrington. Over the years many Hambridge lads have had great success at the Barrington Club. Anyone interested in playing on a Saturday when the season starts should contact John Martin on 01460 281 560. Alternatively, you could always pop up to the pitch on the hill above Barrington on a Saturday morning when there is always someone there who could welcome you and give more information.

Our Villages are working in partnership with the Food Bank at Curry Rivel. If you know where help might be needed please let us know. We can set up the initial connection. Perhaps let 2 x Phills know.

The Village Entertainment Group are going to organise a scarecrow competition over the August Bank Holiday weekend. More about that soon on posters and in Newsletters.

ST PETER'S CHURCH, HORTON

News from Horton

Another beautiful day greets me, as I write the latest news.

Good News!!

We are opening our Church for Private Prayer from next Wednesday 1st July – 2.00pm till 4.00pm. We shall also be open on the 8th July 2.00pm till 4.00pm, and it is planned to open every Wednesday after that.

Everyone wishing to take advantage of this opportunity will be welcomed by Revd Phil. All instructions on how to keep yourself, and others safe will be on display. There will be 2m social distancing.

Breaking News!!

Government has announced this week that we may be able to open our Church for worship, without singing, in the not too distant future. We shall wait for the guidance from Bath and Wells Diocese.

I think we all agree that our lives have followed different paths during lockdown. Roger and I have not yet set foot in a shop for 15 weeks, and so for us it will be a new experience come the end of the month.

We must look forward to the future with more confidence, but still realising the need for caution. As we are told Covid 19 will be with us for some time to come But as long as we remain vigilant, act sensibly, and follow the guidance, we shall emerge stronger, and more resilient.

As a Community we have shown that we care for one and other, and from that, we have formed closer friendships.

Thanks as always must go to Nina at the Village Shop, the army of Volunteers, and the local business people.

Zoom has become a household name - who would have thought that 3 months ago. Zoom has enabled us to keep in contact with Family, and Friends, and has been a God send! to Revd. Phil to keep all of our Churches in the Benefice in touch with each other.

There are now so many positive things to look forward to, - welcoming our families back into our homes, meeting up with friends once again, and attending Church Services as we have always done.

Next month's magazine will be printed, and delivered.

In the meantime please keep safe, and well

"My thoughts for the day:-

Every morning the world wakes up.

Birds sing

Flowers show their faces to the sun.

Children chatter, and shout.

Music plays on the radio.

Mums and Dads prepare breakfast, and lunch boxes.

People get ready for work.

Doctors, Nurses, Teachers, Delivery drivers, and other key workers face busy days, some with trauma.

Schools welcome the return of pupils.

Streets are busy again

We can eat Fish & Chips, and 99's on the seafront.

Church doors will be open

And life goes on "

Love Jan - Churchwarden

ILTON

The Church of St Peter

Churchwarden: Kate Cameron – 01460 55308

Secretary: Christine Bragg – 01460 54998

Committee: Anne Crow, Colin Thomas & Michelle Butler

The best news this month for Ilton is that our new curate Phil Albrow (who has not been ordained yet owing to Covid 19) has joined our benefice with attachment to the parish of Ilton. We shall all see him in the village and church so please make yourselves known to him and a welcome.

We have contributed to the buying of new school uniform which had to change now that our church school has become an academy.

We have bought bibles for the school leavers at the end of this term.

Our church building is sad with water pouring in when it rains in spite of all our efforts. We are endlessly waiting for permission to begin from planning authorities and diocesan committees. July which was the start date looks unlikely.

We have 2 wonderful lime trees in the churchyard which have been causing some worries as branches fall in the winds so the county arborist has checked them and advised that they should be reduced as they are so large and weighed down with mistletoe!

No news yet of the restarting of church services.

ISLE ABBOTTS

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin

Correspondent: Lesley Sutcliffe – 01460 281440

lesleysutcliffe52@btinternet.com

Village Website: www.isle-abbotts.org.uk

Message from Churchwarden

We hope everyone is coping well with the lockdown. At least the weather has been good to us so are able to spend time in our gardens or enjoying the lovely countryside this area has to offer.

Things are changing all the time and it is so nice to be able to meet up with family and friends in small groups in our gardens or outside somewhere. Garden centres and shops are beginning to open again and as I write this our churches are also able to open for private prayer. We are pleased to announce that our church will be open, for private prayer only, on Sundays between 10.00 and 12.00 and on Wednesdays from 10.00 - 16.00.

The second hand book stall will continue to open every day in the porch of the Jubilee Room. There are plenty of books to choose from and all we ask is for a small donation for the church.

Unfortunately, we cannot take any donations of books as the stall is currently full and the books need to be properly sanitised.

Stay well and keep safe

Elaine

100 Club News

Pete Watts would like to thank one and all for supporting the Church by renewing your 100 Club membership, which is now going into it's 8th year. The last draw for May 2020, was won by :-

1st Prize	No. 33	Anthony Reynolds
2nd Prize	No. 91	Boo Grieve
3rd Prize	No. 20	Oliver Lucas

Another poem from the pen of Peter Cottell:

Being Happy

Being happy is our aim in life
To keep away from trouble and strife.
A constant battle to please the mind
Not always works that most will find.

Some are born as happy souls
Who look at life with positive goals.
With others nothing is ever quite right
The negatives who just kick and fight.

Life throws up some nasty terrors
That help us learn from costly errors.
We need some shocks to help us grow
And it's true, we reap what we sow.

Life offers us so much to please
A feast to keep us all at ease.
We need to look for pleasures sweet
So close to home is hard to beat.

Ramp up the love in all of us
Do it happily without a fuss.
Being happy is a state of mind
Easy to lose and easy to find.

Start today and turn on the smile
To lift the spirits all the while.
So help our world just right now
To raise our happiness, and how!

ISLE BREWERS

The Church of All Saints

Contact Point – Churchwarden – Delia Pearmund – 01460 281554

It is sad that All Saints along with St Mary's Donyatt have to remain closed for private prayer due to building work, unlike the other churches in our benefice whose PCC's are planning how to reopen with all the necessary Covid protocols in place.

At the moment churches are only able to offer private prayer, and have to wait for social distancing measures to be more relaxed before services can recommence in churches. It is hoped, however, that some open air services can be held as the summer progresses.

On the subject of social distancing, after many years Heather feels that as her family are in the vulnerable category she must give up the collection and distribution of the Parish magazine. Many thanks are due to Heather who has done the monthly round for many years and we are very grateful.

Heather has asked me to invite volunteers to come forward and help Carolyn deliver the monthly issue. The printed edition should be back for August.

If you would like to help please contact:
Heather 01460 281311 or Delia 01460 281554

Rev'd Phil continues to hold Sunday Zoom services at 5.45pm. If you would like to join please contact Phil or me for the invitation code.

Stay safe everyone
love and prayers
Delia

CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

Copy for the August edition of the parish magazine must be received by

2nd JULY 2020

Late copy will not be included.

Thank you.

islevalleynews@thepitkins.plus.com

I would like to say a 'Thank You', too, to all the lovely parishioners who have been able to forward the electronic copies I sent them, to others in their neighbourhood, have put the details on parish noticeboards and websites and generally made the distribution of the magazines over the last three months possible.

Due to all of you, the production of an electronic version of the magazine has been viable, and, I hope, successful.

Take care, everyone.

**Kind regards
Rosemary**