



Tenterden, St Michael's and Smallhythe
www.tenterdencofe.co.uk

'THE VIRAL TIMES'

Tuesday 31st March 2020

WELCOME!

Good morning, everyone!

We are sad to say that we've been told that we are no longer allowed to worship together even though we were observing social distancing. We must show solidarity with you, our readers and viewers, who cannot physically worship with others beyond the people you share a home with. Therefore, from now on, our worship will be led by one person. However, if we happen to record an act of worship, or an episode of the Viral Times at the beginning or end of our voluntary shift at Helping in Tenterden, then this is permitted. Life is very complex, but of course we want to do the right thing! The good news is that we are planning a full programme of worship for our journey through Holy Week.

Robert wrote to us about trying to find silver linings to the current situation. He rejoiced that it is spring and not winter, the days are getting longer, and the gardens are teeming with new life to enjoy. For us one of the blessings is that we are getting to know lovely things about our VT community that we would probably not have found out over a cuppa on a Sunday. Today's VT is packed with just that!

SERVICES AND READINGS

Morning Prayer: Psalm 123; Exodus 8: 20 - end; Hebrews 11: 32 – 12:2.

Evening Prayer: Psalm 61; Jeremiah 22: 1 – 5, 13 - 19; John 11: 45 - end.

Compline will also be posted tonight.

Remember you can continue to share in our services by clicking on this link:
<https://www.tenterdencofe.co.uk/listen>.

PALM CROSSES

From today palm crosses will be left in the porch at the Vicarage, and some will also be available in the porch at St Michael's. Please do come and collect one during your daily exercise.

TRAIDCRAFT

You probably know that we sell fair trade goods at St Mildred's twice a month as part of our work for a better world. We buy those goods from Traidcraft, a pioneering fair-trade organisation.

Because of the virus this won't be happening! We do still have some items in stock and Traidcraft are still trading and will deliver to your home. If you would like to buy fair trade goods please look at the Traidcraft website (www.traidcraftshop.co.uk), where you'll see a large selection of goods, or contact Carol Hammond who will order for you. Traidcraft normally deliver in 5 to 7 days but is currently taking a bit longer. Carol will then leave your goods in The Vicarage porch for you to collect on your daily walk. You can post the money through the letterbox or use BACS transfer. If you are self-isolating it may be possible to deliver to your home. Contact Carol Hammond (01580 761591 / cymaire1@gmail.com).

MARGARET'S CHALLENGE

Margaret Roylance threw down the gauntlet and asked us to come up with some hymns for the times. Well we have had some great suggestions already for our Top Ten (perhaps from those who would like to sing on the public stage)! First of all Margaret Knight suggested 'Fight the Good Fight' would make a good start. Leni White was keen to suggest 'Ascribe Greatness to our God the Rock' as a contender and Ann Wenbourne thinks 'In Christ Alone' fits the bill. So, there we have a Top Three – but can we make a Top Ten? Your ideas please...!

APRIL FOOL'S DAY

Yesterday we asked you for any recollections of either being taken in by an April Fool or setting one up that went really well. We have had these lovely tales first from Stephanie Buttler and then from Lindy Bates.

Stephanie writes: "Our daughter Jo, is a past master at jokes, she always does something on poor Philippe, and her children at school quite often. I asked her what she thought was her best.

One year she got up very early and altered all the clocks to nine o'clock, hid the mobiles. Then ran around shouting the family had overslept. All panic stations, they all rushed to wash, dress etc. and only when they were ready to go out to work and school, did she tell them it was actually only six o'clock."

Lindy's tale is this: "The best April Fool I can remember being taken in by was when we were living in Malaysia. Opening the paper on April 1st I was amazed to read a report that there was so much rush hour traffic going from the southern tip of Malaysia (Johore Bahru) into Singapore that it caused the island to tilt by several millimetres... It was only when Alan pointed out the date that I realised that I had been had!"

Has anyone else got something to share? Please get in touch!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

It gives us great pleasure to announce that today is Roger Champion's birthday. Many happy returns Roger – please do enjoy a tippie on us. Also celebrating today are Fiona and David Barnes, who have been married for 40 years. What a wonderful achievement. Happy Ruby Anniversary!

POETRY PLEASE!

Sandra Boughton has been in touch to tell us about journalist Fergal Keane's choice of poem to help him through difficult times: *Anam Cara* by John O'Donohue. Sandra says that the same poem has strengthened her over the years and suggests that we perhaps we might like to feature a poem each day. Her choice to start the ball rolling is William Blake's *Joy and Woe*. Why not read it? Have you a favourite poem? If so, please share it, and maybe the reason why.

THE CHURCH MAGAZINE

Please remember that the April magazines are in the porch at St Michael's and St Mildred's. You might like to pop in whilst taking your daily exercise and pick one up. Please don't worry about payment at this time (though St Michael's readers could put their money in the box in St Michael's Post Office). If you have a neighbour who would like a copy then please take one for them too.

FOR HANDS THAT DO DISHES!

It has certainly been a hot topic of conversation in the Corona Bunker – how we combat the ravages of the constant use of sanitiser on our hands.

However, to our relief Linde Lee has sent in the following: “Years ago when hand cream was posh and only something given as a Christmas present, my mum would pour a good teaspoon of olive oil into her hand and ‘wash’ her hands in it. Don’t wash it off; it will sink in very quickly and leave hands really soft. For very dry hands, or feet, add a teaspoon of salt to the oil and rub well in and dust off any remaining salt with a tissue.” Perhaps the next supermarket shortage will be olive oil. If you give this a try let us know the result!

BRING ME MY BOW!

Leni White demonstrates that archery lessons are incompatible with social distancing. Her husband Bob is just out of shot, though not out of range!



TODAY'S PRAYERS

Please pray for those who live in Three Fields Road, Six Fields Path, Bishop Crescent, Holdstock Road and Goodsall Road; also for Stella Queen, Joan Hayes, Minnie Swift and all who have died.

Lord, grant me I pray you, in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, my God, the charity that does not fail, so that my lamp will always be lit, never extinguished and may burn for me and give light to others. Amen.

A POEM BY FRANCES

Yesterday's Viral Times mentioned mistakes. This inspired Frances Sherwood to pen the following lines:

Please correct my mistakes Lord,
for often I'm a fool.
So every time I make one
with love please overrule.
Each new day that's beginning
means more mistakes I'll make.
So please correct them Lord,
for dear Christ Jesus' sake.

THANK YOU, WAITROSE

We received a phone call from Sarah at Waitrose on Sunday afternoon. Sarah told us that they had lots of items that had to come off the shelves and asked if we could make use of them. We set to and delivered much of it to thirteen local families in need. Two full vehicles headed to the foodbank centre yesterday morning, where the items will be sorted into food boxes. Within this consignment are the items you have donated. Well done!



CONTACT POINTS

Helping in Tenterden

01580 761060

<https://www.mytenterden.co.uk/directory/helping-in-tenterden-listing-1774.aspx>

<https://www.mytenterden.co.uk/upload/di/ot/4/dilisting-1774-listingdoc1.pdf>

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COMING UP TOMORROW

More April Fools; we hear about some of your ways of marking Holy Week; Neil shares with us his thoughts on dressing up once a week (you can't afford to miss that)!

PLEASE REMEMBER

Keep Safe, Keep Praying, Keep Connected!