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Staying in to keep us all safe
online issue 2



Human love and care have also been springing up all around us. Is it tears raining down in a crisis that germinate that response, or the warmth of love seen and received from others? Possibly both are needed.

At the same time, Holy week and Easter have given us again an annual opportunity to enter into the passion and love of Jesus. Christians find there a source of 'watering and warmth' that can allow a beautiful new life grow and flower in all of us.



Welcome to online NEWT 2

With just a bit of Spring sunlight, warmth and moisture, all sorts of lovely flowers are appearing again. Which is your favourite? The delicate *Loddon Lily* (left), is a rare beauty native to our locality and few others.



Springing Up afresh

APRIL 2020

St John & St Stephen's, Newtown Community Magazine

Keeping in TOUCH

What I've learned this week, says

Claire Alcock, is GET SOME PERSPECTIVE

For those of an anxious mindset, these times of Corona lockdown have been very challenging indeed. Even the most level headed people have been worried about family, about their health, about possible loss of earnings and about their mental health in these days of social isolation.

In all of this, it's easy to lose perspective. The whole of our news has been corona related for several weeks now and I've found it a challenge to keep my perspective. By that I don't mean I'm grabbing onto the optimistic idea that it's all going to be okay really soon, that I should just sit back and watch Netflix.

But nor do I want to get so pessimistic that I can't function properly, get myself into a hyper vigilant state whereby a small news item can send me into anxiety which will last for hours. It's hard to get a balance.

I found myself thinking about the very senior members of our society who still remember the War years; and how, then, a real fear of significant loss of life haunted this country and Europe for many years, not just months. How people then became resilient and carried on with their lives, finding ways to live positively;

they found camaraderie, a new common purpose and a sense of national pride.

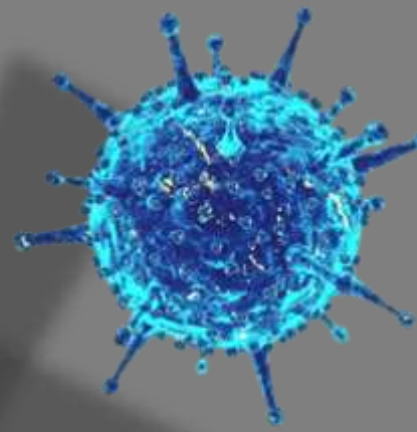
We have seen those things once again evident in our country as we cheer on our NHS, attend to the government as never before, even pray fervently for our Prime Minister.

I dare to think there will be elements of lockdown that we shall miss when we come through this; and things that we shall have experienced, like re-thinking work life balance and what it's like to breathe clean air, that we will not want to lose again.

Today, we celebrate Easter, when Christians mark the resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ. His last days on earth were marked with pain and suffering. But his rising from the dead changed everything, so now there is hope even in the face of death; and that puts a different perspective on everything.

So what I've learnt this week is to get myself some perspective.

Recorded by Claire for Radio Berkshire Faith Show with Paul Coia, Easter Morning 2020.



During the COVID-19 emergency our church services have gone online.

Want to be included? - just [email us](#)

A poem for *a strange Easter*

Claire says: "I wrote this poem after reflecting on how Easter normally falls in the month of April, a notoriously unpredictable month weather-wise.

Sometimes we even get thunder, or it can rain all day and then the sun comes out, and the temperature can soar.

Its unpredictability made me think of the concept of resurrection and how hard it was for the first followers of Jesus to get their heads around what Jesus kept telling them. They were simply unable to prepare for his rising from the dead and we can hardly blame them.

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Church Contacts



**Vicar
Rev Claire
Alcock**



**Assoc. Priest
Christine
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**Parish Centre
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When the women visited
the tomb on the first day
of the week, it was in the
firm expectation that
Jesus would still be dead.
They were about to get
the most enormous shock
of their lives.

Today the promise of
resurrection is still
something we find
difficult to take on board
but whatever happened
that first Easter morning,
its resurrection hope is
still reverberating down
the years.

Maybe April

Green, gold or grey
hint of decay or trumpet
of hope; maybe
the footfall on the
new grass at light
was the gardener. Maybe.

Maybe a bird's cry
or a waiting woman's,
too early to tell
like when he fell
on the sorrowful way
under weight of wood.

by Claire Alcock

Perhaps thunder, or an
unknown terror at dawn;
a tomb cracked
a vase smashed
contents spilled out into the
first day of the world.

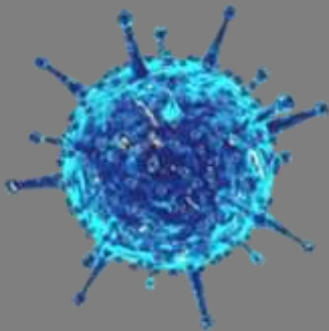
Maybe heat, or a chill
seasonal doubt, but
one thing remains;
whether then or now
like blossom
something's broken out.

SCHOOLS STILL WORKING Supporting Families

During the COVID-19 emergency our
primary schools have gone online too.

Children staying at home with their
families are receiving regular mailings
and can also get materials on the two
School's facebook pages.

Meanwhile, a few children need to be
cared for whilst their parents carry
out key work for the community. So,
they are staying safe and relaxed with
some teachers from both the schools
in the St John's School buildings.



School Contacts



Head teacher
**Polly
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Deputy
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**Penny
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Staying **APART**

Becoming un-busy

*And the people stayed home. And read books,
listened, rested and exercised; made art, played
games, and learned new ways of being,
and were still.*

*And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some
prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows.*

And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

*And, in the absence of people living in ignorant,
dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth
began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the
people joined together again, they grieved their
losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new
images, and created new ways to live and to heal
the earth fully, as they had been healed.*

(Kitty O'Meara)



Staying **SAFE**



Keeping in **TOUCH**



Using technology, writing notes, sending parcels or simply talking through a window or across our garden walls ... we're learning how!

Helping one **ANOTHER**



Always available 24h
Call: **116 123** (free from
any phone) or email:
jo@samaritans.org



0118 926 3941 or email
office@communicare.org.uk
or visit updated website at
www.communicare.org.uk



response@ccam.org.uk is an
emergency van service to
vulnerable people and those
facing severe disadvantage.

Local help given by neighbours usually gives the fastest and most flexible support. However, our local charities also need our help. With offices closed to

callers, they continue to serve the most vulnerable by phone or email contact. But their normal fundraising activities are shut down, so, if you can, please donate to them via their websites.

Staying **SANE & awake**

BBC News has reported that many of us are feeling much more tired than usual. Experts say that the change we are all experiencing is the cause. If you are

stressed yourself, or concerned about someone else's mental health in this crisis, Samaritans have gathered together some helpful online resources on [this webpage](#).

