

Ploughshare

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BRAMPTON
DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES



Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Online: www.stthomasbrampton.com

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Email: contact@stthomasbrampton.com

60p per copy or £3 per year

ST THOMAS' CHURCH OFFICE

Chatsworth Rd, Chesterfield, S40 3AW

In line with instructions from the Church of England and the Bishop's Office the Church, Church Office and Centre are currently closed.

It is hoped to be able to check emails each weekday between 10-11am.

The Church Office email address is contact@stthomasbrampton.com

Please do not leave messages on the church office telephone at this time. Funeral directors have been given a contact number.

If you would like to get in touch to either volunteer to make weekly telephone contact with someone OR would like to request weekly contact please email: corona.stthomasbrampton@gmail.com

Acting Rector	Revd David Owens contact@stthomasbrampton.com	01246 566047
Associate Minister	Revd David Mouncer revdavidmouncer@gmail.com	01246 551313
0-18 Director	Joel Botham joelbotham@hotmail.com	
Parish Operations Manager	Julie Barton contact@stthomasbrampton.com	01246 558461
Centre manager	Janet Bradbury enquiries@stthomascentre.com	01246 279916

SUNDAY SERVICES

Due to the current coronavirus situation there are no services in church.

Please look at the website or our Facebook page for links to Sunday worship and children's activities.

We can continue to pray, look after one another with phone calls, cards, letters and be church family.

CHURCH UPDATE RE: CORONAVIRUS

Dear Friends,

Sadly, in line with instructions from the Church of England and the Bishop's Office we have now had to close the Church, the Centre and the Church office. Please do not leave telephone messages as these cannot be accessed. Please bear with us at this strange time.

We are sending out weekly devotionals and an online alternative to our shared Sunday worship.

All our communications will be via email, our website and Facebook. We are trying to stay in contact with people we are aware are not comfortable with digital means, so if you are supporting someone by phone, remember to keep them updated if you can.

Building on our existing volunteer network we are able to offer phone calls and other assistance where there are no family, friends or neighbours able to help. **BUT** if you can use one of the suggestions on the following page for practical support, eg shopping, please do so, as this will enable us to keep as many people at home as possible to slow the spread of this awful virus and build in a sustainable system if all our volunteers need to self isolate.

You are receiving this magazine digitally – but many of our subscribers are not on our church email list. If you have details of anyone who would like to receive the magazine and can get their email address – without leaving home! Please ask them to email mariewitham@gmail.com – magazine editor.

We are in the process of arranging pastoral care for those who are having to self-isolate or who are feeling anxious at this time. If you know anyone who might appreciate a phone call to help alleviate this isolation period, please let us know, preferably by email; corona.stthomasbrampton@gmail.com
Or leave a message on 07838 260571

This is a good time to remember that church is about people. Although we are not physically gathering we remain a church family committed to looking out for each other and worshipping Jesus through our day to day lives. We can still be a church of disciples making disciples.

Every Blessing

David Owens

LONDIS, CHATSWORTH RD ARE DOING HOME DELIVERIES. 01246568871

(Near Storrs Rd traffic lights)

For those of you in the Ashgate, Brampton, Brookside, Somersall, Walton and Holymoorside areas Londis are delivering groceries.

Ring them on 01246 568871 and Leave a message and your telephone number. They will then ring you back and 'walk round the store 'as they sort your shopping with you – you will then know if they do not have something or can order an alternative.

They have most general groceries, fresh foods, beer, wines, spirits, personal care and household items.

You can pay over the phone and your shopping will be delivered. They are achieving same day deliveries at the moment. They have been inundated with requests but are doing a brilliant job.

Thank you Terry and your team.

Later in the magazine you will see details of our own Alison and Graham Wells who have Fairtrade supplies.

Other sources of support

Derbyshire County Council is now setting up a network – working with existing voluntary agencies in the area. You can register if you have no friends or family you can call on and:

- you are self-isolating because you or a member of your household is at risk
- you are struggling to meet your basic needs because of financial, social or health restrictions
- you are pregnant
- you have underlying health conditions
- you are aged 70 or over.

This network can help you with shopping, or fetching your prescription or finding someone to have a chat with.

You can register on the DCC website – click on this link

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/home.aspx> and then click on the “information about Coronavirus” link at the top of the page.

**Alternatively you can register by phone by calling
01629 535091.**

The phone line opening hours for this Derbyshire County Council phone line are:

- Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
- Saturday 9am to 1pm.

The Council say that one of their approved partner volunteer organisations will be in touch with you as soon as possible to offer you the help you need.

Don't give your bank details, bank card or PIN to anyone, and don't give cash to anyone who is not part of this volunteer scheme unless you already know them.

Check that the person who comes to help you is from the voluntary organisation who contacted you – ask for some form of ID that has a photograph on it.

IF YOU HAVE A MEDICAL EMERGENCY PLEASE CONTACT 111

Here at St Thomas' Church we see that, as a church, our volunteer role is to ensure everyone who is self-isolating or living alone has regular support via telephone, text and / or email and that where possible the volunteer co-ordinators will signpost to the community services being provided for those who do not have family, friends or neighbours. Be assured that all safeguarding policies and practices remain in effect .

On the next page are some useful guidelines, published on the Derby Diocese website.



Being A Good Neighbour

During the Coronavirus outbreak many people have come forward to help and support their neighbours. We want you and your neighbours to be safe whilst you help one another during this uncertain time. The following guide offers tips and advice on how to help safely.

Offering help in your community

Keep it local and manageable.

Don't try to cover more than you realistically can sustain – this might last for months.

Stick to a patch you know well. Keep to where people will recognise you and trust your offer is genuine. Try to understand that people may be cautious about accepting help if they don't know you well and have the right to refuse your help.

Create a list of the things that you feel able to help other with. Feel comfortable to say no if people ask for more help than you're able to give. Trust your instincts when you are offering to help others or being offered help. Remove yourself from the situation if you don't feel safe and respect others choice to do the same.

If you witness hate crime, such as racist comments or physical violence, report it to the Police or Stop Hate UK. People are pulling together in communities – but we are witnessing some instances of tensions.

Looking after yourself whilst helping others

If you would like to help others but have been instructed to self isolate, please follow the official Government guidelines and don't break your isolation period early.

When in contact with others, follow social distancing advice and keep a safe distance from others (this is approximately 2 metres or 6 feet apart).

Be sure to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds before and after contact with your neighbours and follow the NHS 'catch it, kill it, bin it' advice when coughing or sneezing.

If you are helping others, be aware of your own wellbeing and ask for help

and support if you need it.

Keep in touch with friends and family, and maintain activities that you're able to do, such as reading, exercise, gardening, walking the dog.

Keeping safe at home

Don't get into personal care or going into people's houses – be assured that other agencies are looking into this.

We don't advise that people display window signs telling others you're self-isolating – this could make some people more vulnerable to being exploited at this difficult time.

Keep an eye out for suspicious activity or visitors to your neighbours, particularly those who may be more vulnerable, and report this to the Police if you feel concerned.

There have been some incidents of people knocking on doors and claiming to represent charities. Be sure to carefully check people's identification if you are not expecting them to visit and don't answer the door if you feel uncomfortable.

Keeping safe online

Keep up virtual community connections using social media, email or WhatsApp groups for your local community, rather than sending individual messages. This helps to maintain everyone's safety.

There are lots of existing groups that you may wish to join – look out for Residents Association groups, Neighbourhood Watch and Facebook community groups.

Do not share your personal details such as your email address or telephone number if you are not comfortable doing so.

Be sure to continue to access up to date information from trusted organisations including Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, the NHS and Public Health.

Don't open emails or click on links claiming to be from organisations such as Public Health or Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. They may be scams and could download a virus to your computer.

Financial safety

Don't give or loan people money if you don't know them or if it doesn't feel

safe to do so. Keep your personal information safe and don't share any account details with people you don't know and trust.

If you would like to donate to charity to support people affected by the pandemic, check the credibility of the organisation first or donate to trusted organisations that you know.

Safeguarding others

If you have concerns about your own safety or the safety and welfare of your neighbours,

including children or vulnerable adults, then contact the relevant emergency service.

Helpful websites

For the latest news from Derby Diocese, go to our web site:

<https://derby.anglican.org>

:

NHS volunteer army are being badged as Good Sam(aritans):

www.goodsamapp.org/NHS

Derbyshire County Council are co-ordinating a massive community response across the county to make sure vulnerable residents are supported through the coronavirus outbreak:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/health-protection/diseasecontrol/coronavirus/community-response-unit/community-response-unit.aspx

Adapted from Community Care Volunteering 2020, Voluntary Action Leeds & Leeds City Council

Thank you to everyone who is keeping in touch with someone – it means a lot. If you would like a phone call to chat to someone please let us know and we will match you up. See church information at the beginning of the magazine.

Marie Witham

The night prayer which appears at the bottom of p 11 was written by Sharon Burrows and shared on the Solace WhatsApp group. Solace is usually a quarterly get together, time of reflection for carers. I have permission from Sharon to reproduce it here. Thank you

Pollution of our physical world

At the end of The Creation story in Genesis 1: 31, we read: 'God saw all that he had made and it was very good.'

We human beings are the pinnacle of God's creation on this planet and our task is to learn to love God with all that we are and to love and serve others as Jesus taught and demonstrated in his life on earth. But we are also tasked with nurturing and preserving God's very good creation and it has to be said that we are not doing a very good job of that.

As we all know the oceans of the world are full of plastic waste which is doing tremendous damage to all forms of sea life. Greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced to zero within a few years if we are to prevent catastrophic climate change. Air pollution levels are dangerously high in many places across the world and we are even polluting outer space with millions of pieces of debris from old satellites and other space hardware orbiting around the earth. Finally, what are we to make of the already devastating effects of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic?

I know this all sounds very depressing but there is hope. Much work is going on to find and implement ways to reduce all these types of pollution and as Christians we need to keep praying about this both in our private prayers and in our worship together. We can also make our own small, but vital, contribution to saving the creation by the way we lead our lives.

Pollution of our spiritual world

I want to consider now another kind of pollution; pollution of our hearts and minds; pollution of our spiritual world.

We have been studying Romans 8 in church recently and in verse 5 we read:

'Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.'

A key message of Romans 8 is that our mind, where we set it and how we occupy it, plays a crucial role in both our present conduct and our future destiny. In addition, Jesus says in Mark 10 that if we want to enter the kingdom of God we need to become like little children. Little children are innocent, humble and trusting but there is a problem.

I think it is true to say that never before in human history have people been

subjected to such a barrage of information and misinformation, in words and images, as we are today. Of course this is, in large part, due to the internet and social media and there are many things that are wonderful and positive about that. But there is a negative and dark side to it as well. On the internet, readily available, we can find people, many of them young children, being bullied to the point of taking their own lives; terrible sexual content, including the grooming of young children; videos of how to make bombs and of people being beheaded by terrorists and much more. Exposure to this kind of material will affect the contents of hearts and minds that Paul writes about in Romans 8 and particularly the innocence of Children that Jesus suggests in Mark 10.

I expect you have experienced the situation where you are walking along a crowded pavement carefully avoiding colliding with people coming towards you. Suddenly you have to take immediate evasive action to avoid a collision with someone who is totally absorbed with something on their mobile phone. Recently published statistics tell us that the scenario that I have just described is now the main source of injuries due to people falling. What are we to make of this obsession with mobile devices?

I wonder if you have heard of the word nomophobia? The original meaning of this word was a fear of the law but researchers are now also using it to mean an irrational fear, or anxiety, about being without your mobile phone or device; **no mobile phobia**. Some researchers are suggesting that mobile phones are, or will be, the biggest non-drug addiction in the 21st century. A mobile device addiction is an example of what is being called a paradox of technology in that it is both freeing and enslaving. It is freeing in the sense that with a few taps of the finger people can find out about almost anything they want to; but of course it is enslaving if it becomes an addiction.

Many young children, even in the 3 to 5 years of age group, now have mobile devices and recent research suggests that they are using them to play games and watch films on the internet for up to 3 hours each day.

As parents and grandparents we need to be very aware of what our children and grandchildren are viewing on their mobiles and be ready to find ways of helping them not to become too dependent on them. Of course, there is a lot of material on the internet that should not be there in the first place and that is another issue that needs to be addressed.

Clearly we live in a turbulent interconnected world but we can take great comfort from the following words from the last few verses of Romans 8.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or danger or sword. No, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“ When phones were tied; people were free!”

#LIVE LENT

The Church of England has a Lent course – where daily reflections can be accessed via a mobile phone or computer – sorry Bill!!

Even if you have missed the start you can still see each week.

The theme is our care of the earth and its resources. I used the advent reflections and both those and the lent ones are interesting and a way to approach reading for Lent. If you access the Church of England website or use this link. <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-care-gods-creation>

Marie Witham

Securing our salvation, he sacrifices himself,

Gives all for us.

Guaranteeing our future, he relinquishes his own.

Making good our feeble frailties, he does not count the cost.

Welcoming the weary traveller, he makes no charge.

Opening wide his arms. He embraces everyone.

Offering comfort, he is everywhere available.

Giving light, he brightens the darkest place.

Gives all for us.

Amen

May God be with us this night, and with all we love.

Lord, be a visitor to our relatives in care homes we can't visit.

Look after our children whether with us in our homes, or grown up and moved away.

May your presence be with those we love who are unwell.

May you Lord be with us whether awake or asleep this night.

You are the bright morning star and we will awake with grateful thanks tomorrow.

Memories of St Thomas' during the second world war – Winifred and Clive Slack

This is taken from the transcript of a talk that Winifred and her husband Clive gave to Rendezvous. Winifred's family has a long association with St Thomas', her parents, grandparents, great grandparents and great-great grandparents all worshipped here.

Clive's father died in February 1938 when Clive was just 7 years old. His brother Allan (14), was a member of St Thomas' choir, as were Winifred's 2 brothers. Allan took Clive along as he was old enough to join. The choir stalls were full with boys on the two front rows, with the row behind full of men (no girls or ladies in those days). The front row of the church pews on the road side was reserved for the choirmaster's wife and the new boys waiting to move up to the choir stalls when a place became available for them.

Mr Simons was an excellent organist and choirmaster. Every choir practice began with the choir members processing, with him, from the vestry at the back of the church, in strict timing, to the choir stalls. Scales were practised, to train their voices, the hymns for the Sunday services were practised. If there was any spare time Anthems were rehearsed for future use. The first was "The Lord is my strength", and the second, "Oh for the wings of a dove". Clive, his brother and 3 other boys walked to church 3 times each Sunday, approx 2 miles each journey as there was no bus service on Walton Rd. Clive lived on Walton Crescent.

In September 1939 Clive was cycling up Walton Rd with his Aunt's fiancée, when a policeman (on a bicycle) stopped them, half way up, to tell them that war had been declared. (He must just have been informed at the silent policeman phone box at the junction of Walton Rd and Hunloke Ave.) Clive was too young to be called up and did his national service in the Army, after the war.

The government issued a statement that a siren, with a warbling sound, would warn that an air raid was imminent and when the raid was over a single tone siren sounded as an all clear. Air raid wardens would patrol at night to ensure that no lights were shining through the curtains and also would sound rattles if there was a gas attack. Everybody was issued with gas masks. Church bells were to be rung in the event of a parachute invasion. Therefore the ringing of church bells had to stop for normal use until the end

of the war. The stained glass windows were covered from the outside to protect them from damage.

Because of the blackout regulations there were some slight alterations to the times of church services. In summer the services were 8am communion, 9.15 sung Eucharist, 11am Matins. Sunday School was held at St Thomas' School on Chatsworth Rd, opposite Johnson's ironmongers, at 2pm and evensong was at 6.30pm.

In the winter church could not have any lights on so evensong was held at 3.30pm. As well as all these services, there was also a communion service every 4th Sunday at 10.15am. (This was jokingly named "the sick, lame and lazy service".) Many of the young men were called up into the forces, including Winifred's two brothers into the RAF and Clive's brother into war work as an overhead crane driver at the Tubeworks, as he had a badly injured left elbow from a fall when he was young. He had wanted to join the RAF and was very disappointed when this was not to be. Consequently the choir consisted of youngsters under 18 or men too old to be called up into the forces.

The flag of St George flew on the church tower for many years. Clive thought this practice stopped some time in the 1960's.

Before the war there was a thriving Mother's Union. A young wives group and the Church of England Men's society.

At that time, St Thomas' had three daughter churches in the parish, St Mark's in Lower Brampton, St Peter's in Holymoorside and St John's in Walton, all with their own curate, so there was often an interchange of clergy at the Sunday services. The Rector was the Rev Hubert John Sillitoe. He supported Clive's family when Clive's father was ill and visited in the middle of the night to offer comfort.

The hymns during war time were well chosen and fitting for war time. There were still many weddings taking place as people were getting married before their loved ones were called into the forces. The choir boys were in great demand for these services.

Winifred – I remember when I was quite young the Mother's Union used to run the Epiphany Teas every year in January. This was held in the old St Thomas' School room, which was filled with long trestle tables, the length of the room. Winifred's granny was a Mother's Union member, and being a butcher's wife, she made all the potted meat for the sandwiches. Winifred

has never tasted potted meat so mouth watering. There were also an assortment of home made cakes and buns, plus Winifred's granny's sherry trifle. This did not have fruit in it – her Granny said that there was enough sherry in it to make it luscious. Winifred made trifle her granny's way for special family occasions and inherited her deep cut-glass trifle bowl. As food came to be in short supply during the war the Epiphany Teas had to be abandoned and were never revived.

In 1944 the Rector, Rev Sillitoe, who had been at St Thomas' all Winifred's life, retired. The Rev John Dawson Hooley replaced him. He was much younger and had two teenage sons, David and Patrick. One of the first things



he did was to start a youth club. There were games and social evenings on Wednesdays at St Thomas' School . Each bank holiday a hike was arranged. The one Winifred remembers best was at Whitsun. On a lovely sunny Monday 20-30 young people walked to Chatsworth Park where picnics were eaten and games played. All the girls were wearing pretty summer dresses as trousers were not yet worn by girls. Mid afternoon the return walk started, but when the group was half way home, clouds gathered and before too long the heavens opened. Winifred's dress was made of green crepe, which shrinks when it gets wet. She spent the rest of the walk home trying to pull her skirt down to knee length from where it kept shrinking to bottom length.

Certainly one of Winifred's most embarrassing moments at age 15!

Clive – 1945. VE Day arrived. Restrictions were gradually lifted. The street lights were shining again. Blackout was over and vehicles had full power in

their lights. The church bells could again be rung. Fred Biggin, who was the verger, asked Clive to help him with the bell ringing. It was soon Clive's job and he rang the bells for half an hour before the 11am and 6.30pm services. Clive went through the hymn book to see which tunes he could transpose to key 'C' and then played them on the bells. In 1944 Clive became an altar server and soon after, Sam Finney, who was the crucifer, died and Clive took over that role for many years. Although Clive and Winifred had always attended St Thomas' they did not meet socially until Clive was nearly 17. On January 7th 1948 Clive and Fred Cresswell organised a social and dance for The Church of England Men's Society in St Thomas' School. Winifred asked Clive to dance for a ladies privilege waltz. He was very pleased as he was rather shy. They had been married for 63 years when Clive passed away in 2016. Winifred has recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

*With thanks to Winifred and her family for allowing me to print this article.
Marie Witham*

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Comments and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, The PCC or the clergy of St Thomas' or St Peter's.

COPY FOR NEXT MAGAZINE by 24 MAY PLEASE

General comments, information or articles for the magazine can be emailed to mariewitham@gmail.com

**MANY APOLOGIES TO BETH AND ANDY ROBSON-SMITH
as I managed to spell LYRA EVE'S name wrong!**

She is Lyra not Lara!!!

Marie Witham

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Take a look at the TOGETHER – Diocesan magazine to see an article about our very own THOM'S BLOKES. This can be read on the Derby Diocese website. <https://derby.anglican.org/en/publications/welcome-to-together-magazine.html>

TRAIDCRAFT – FAIRTRADE UPDATE

To all our customers

(at church or at the Brampton Food Market)

Dear All,

Due to the closure of Church on Sundays and the Brampton Food Market in these difficult times we just want to say that we do have our stall at home. We have good stocks of everything we normally sell, including cupboard basics like toilet rolls, soap, tea and coffee, dried fruit and nuts, cereal, pasta, rice and of course our chocolate and cards. Like all small businesses we have bills to pay so your continued support would be appreciated. With that in mind we are offering a delivery service to your home (to be handed over at the door) at no charge.

We are also happy to have you call for goods previously ordered via text, email or phone at an agreed time.

Our details are:

43 Oakfield Avenue, Chesterfield.

07817 573283 or alisonjanew@sky.com.

Easter Products: We still have a couple of milk and dark Real Easter Eggs and a few Divine mini eggs and egg hunt boxes and Easter cards. Please contact us if you would like any of these things.

Thank you for all your support for Fighting Poverty Through Trade.

We send our love and prayers to you all at this difficult time.

Alison and Graham Wells

Homeless at Sheffield Station

Ken Franklin

My face unwashed, unshaven too,
My ragged coat around my knees.
What are the passers-by to do
To calm their feelings of unease?

The fountains dance, the waters shimmer
A cold wind blows across the path
In my tin a few coins glimmer
But not enough to fund a bath.

My stomach aches with hunger pangs
The food has been in short supply
On slender threads my life now hangs
No one hears my muffled cry.

I'm just a beggar, nothing more.
The world cares nothing for my kind.
I've fallen far to hit the floor,
Now society would like me fined.

Please save me from the freezing rain.
I cannot bear my aching joints,
The stiffness and recurring pain,
Where is the charity love appoints?

Commuters rush to catch their train,
Their minds are closed as past they go,
While I float on, towards the drain
Like effluent in a ceaseless flow.

It's not for pity I cry out
It's not for silver coins I plead,
I cannot call, I cannot shout.
It's care and kindness that I need.

TEARFUND – 20 small ways to make a WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IN 2020

As a Christian charity, Tearfund believes that everyone has an amazing God-given potential to create change. We show people around the world how to unlock these gifts and put them to use escaping poverty. Many of our partners in this work are local churches, who discover how to offer their communities material and spiritual hope.

God creates all of us with incredible inner resources. Tearfund works with local churches and Christian organisations to unlock this potential – showing communities that, together, they can escape poverty.

As we settle into a new year and a new decade, we're thinking of some simple things we can do to make a difference. (We're particularly excited about number 20!)

- 1. Smile at people.** When we smile, our brains actually feel happier. Smiling is a gift to us and the people around us :)
- 2. Listen on purpose.** Not simply to answer. Or to know when it's our turn to speak. Listen to hear and understand and find out new things about the people and the world around us.
- 3. Pray for your friends.** The Bible is full of stories of answered prayers. Look for answered prayers in your own life and in the lives of others. Let the testimonies build your faith. Then pray.
- 4. Pray for people who have been forced from their homes by conflict or disaster.** Pray for provision, comfort and hope for them.
- 5. Pray for an end to poverty.** Lift up those already responding. Pray for more people to do more to change more.
- 6. Breathe.** Take a minute or three. Count to five on each in and out breath to help reduce stress and anxiety. Remember you are loved beyond measure.
- 7. Call someone or write them a note.** Your small kindness might be the big thing that makes their day.
- 8. Put a daily reminder on your phone or calendar** of a Bible verse or quote that has special meaning to you. Let it transform your mind as you are encouraged by the truth.

9. Drink enough water. With each glass, consider the joyful privilege of having safe, clean water. Appreciate how good it is. Remember those who don't have easy access to it.

10. Laugh. Find something funny. Laughing has brilliant mental and physical benefits and is highly contagious – so it's good for you and others.

11. Be gentle on the environment. Swap a car or bus journey for a walk, run or cycle. Notice things on the way that you can pray about or simply be grateful for.

12. Give what you can. Your time, money or skills. Try to give empathy before advice.

13. Pray for the government – leaders need prayer for guidance, wisdom and some good sleep.

14. Prioritise sleep. If you have somewhere safe and comfortable to rest, take a moment to focus on the simple pleasure of it. Pray for those who don't.

15. Find one new kind-to-the-environment thing to do. Actually do it.

16. Speak up for justice in your own way. Whether in your home, school or office. Let the things that matter be heard where you are.

17. Learn one new scripture off by heart. Learn hundreds if you want, but start with just one.

18. Forgive. Treat yourself and others with the grace Christ already paid for.

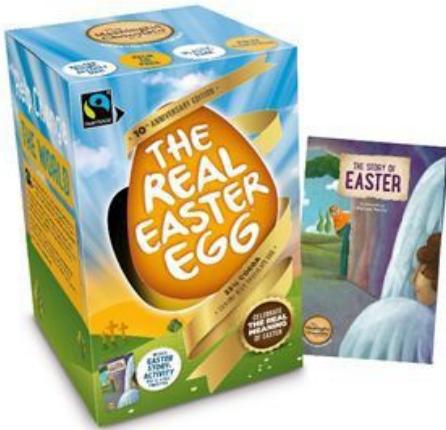
19. Say thank you to people. Say thank you to God.

20. Meet new people. Learn new things. (Science has shown that our brain and our physical health are positively affected by both.) In fact we have one very practical way that you can combine learning new things, giving, praying, ending poverty, speaking up for justice and make a WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.

Join us in an unforgettable, life changing journey and be part of building hope in the world in 2020 and beyond.

See Tearfund's website for their projects

<https://www.tearfund.org/en/>



The Real Easter Egg campaign has been running since 2010 and involves thousands of churches, schools and groups. It crosses all denominations and offers individuals a simple way to share the Easter Story while supporting Fairtrade and charitable projects.

The idea began in 2008 when David Marshall was given a chocolate Easter Egg. David

explained: "On the side of the box it read: 'Easter is the festival of chocolate and loveliness'. I began to wonder – was it right for the manufacturer of an Easter egg to change the meaning of a religious festival in this way? Imagine the outcry if this had been done to Christmas. I searched for an Easter egg which mentioned the Christian story of Easter. It became clear that out of the 80 million eggs on sale there was not a single manufacturer who was willing to mention the religious aspects of the festival. So I started The Meaningful Chocolate Company to manufacture the UK's first 'Real Easter Egg'. For it to be a 'Real Easter Egg' it had to reflect the Easter themes of hope and new life and do three things – have a copy of the Easter story in the box, be made from Fairtrade chocolate and support charitable causes."

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010. It was a real struggle as all the supermarkets turned down the idea of an Easter egg connected to faith. It was left to churches, schools and groups to place orders and fund the making of The Real Easter Egg.

Ten years on, more than a million eggs have been sold with over 750,000 sent through the post directly to customers. The rest have

been sold through retailers and supermarkets. Nearly £275,000 has been donated to charitable projects with Fairtrade Premium fees paid to farmers allowing them to buy everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

Each egg has an edition of the Easter story included. There is a new 24-page version with activities, biblical text and a prize competition worth £200 this year. Eggs are plastic free and palm oil free. Milk eggs are £3.99 and dark eggs £5.50 You can order them through Alison and Graham Wells – please ring us on 01246 566257 or email at alisonjanew@sky.com

If you wish to order the sharing or special editions of the egg you can go to the Meaningful Chocolate website
<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/>

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The Alpha course that was due to start on 21 April has been postponed. Once the current Coronavirus situation is resolved new dates will be published.

BRAMPTON FOOD MARKET –following the latest government guidance on the Coronavirus the Brampton Food Markets have been cancelled until further notice. This will be kept under review over time and, hopefully, the Market can resume later this year.

Thank you Graham Wells

I have been fortunate to be involved with some of our local Syrian refugee families for over 3 years now, originally being introduced to them via a friend of mine, who supported them when they first arrived in our town through the group Stand Up to Racism (SUTR), which I have to confess I hadn't heard of. All of our local Syrian refugees are supported by a combination of SUTR, Christians Together in Chesterfield, and the Chesterfield Muslim Welfare Association, all working closely together. The refugees are all Muslim, and we do occasionally talk about our different faiths (with the children's school Nativity plays being an example), being both aware of, and respectful of, our different beliefs.

Initially I helped with group teaching in the classroom (in Shirebrook & then at the Peter Webster Centre in Chesterfield), and for the last 2 years have been regularly visiting 2 different families in their homes. This home visiting has been an informal set up, the main purpose originally being to help the upper junior & secondary school age children catch up a bit with their English, as the adults all have specially provided English lessons, and the younger children learn pretty quickly alongside their young peers in school. It is the older children/teenagers who struggle. I also help with homework, filling in forms, phoning for appointments, etc. However, I have always loved playing games, and my visits always start off with some reading, spelling, writing, etc, but then become games sessions with all the children in the family, and sometimes the parents, too. Syrian children are just as competitive as English children when it comes to their siblings! There is also always some drinking of delicious Arabic coffee, & generous provision of food, often with offers to stay & eat with the family after the 'lesson' (which I decline, as I need to go home & feed my own family!) The Syrians' hospitality is truly wonderful.

Last year, I felt I'd like to learn more about how to teach English to 'Speakers of Other Languages', so I did some digging and emailing, and, after an interview, found myself with a place on the Autumn term CELTA Course at Sheffield University. CELTA stands for Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults, though most graduates will teach children, too, at some point in their career. It is now the most-recognised TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) qualification internationally. To complete the course you have to teach 8 classroom lessons (observed by some of your peers and a tutor, not

to mention the 10-20 adult learners - scary!), complete 4 written assignments, and attend every session of the course, which is over 2 days a week for 3 months. The tutors kept describing it as an 'intense' 3 months, which it certainly was (I would be trying Lesson Plans out in my head as I walked the dog, cooked tea, etc, and spent hours on the computer upstairs), but it was fascinating, the 4 tutors were all fabulous, and every one of my 14 fellow CELTA Belters (the name of our WhatsApp group with which we now all keep in touch - some Belters are already in Spain and S. Korea) was a delight. Most of the group were young, often fresh from uni and wanting to travel the world, but 3 of us were more 'mature'! 2 students were from China, and 1 from Chile. We all got along famously, and felt a bit bereft (though relieved) when we'd completed the course, a few days before Christmas. I would thoroughly recommend the experience, although it does cost a fair bit, and the names of most of the tenses have annoyingly and confusingly changed since I did French and Latin 'O' Levels! It was truly 'good for the little grey cells!'

Post-CELTA, I am now teaching some Somali women (as a volunteer) twice a week in Sheffield, along with another 'Belter', and we are loving getting to know the ladies. One had never held a pen before. I also now definitely feel more confident in my volunteering with the Syrians. And, who knows, maybe one day I'll travel somewhere abroad to teach (though my black Labrador would complain loudly at my absence!)

My Christian faith has always led me to want to love/serve others, (strongly tied in with the influence of my parents), and tolerance towards/justice for all people, kindness to all people, and personal integrity continue to be my 'gold standards' for my life as I try (when I am able, and with varying degrees of success!) to follow Jesus' example of his truly wonderful unconditional and inestimable love.

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The phrase "do not be afraid" is written 365 times in the Bible. That is a daily reminder from God to live every day being fearless. Particularly apt at this time when there is so much fear, uncertainty and panic around.

I have recently spoken with all the folks in Ethiopia, the children are well and things are going without too many hitches. The children are happy, healthy and attending school, their first step to independence, and some positive initiatives are being progressed by Berhane, Alemayoh, Fasica and others that will lead to them standing on their own two feet. We are pleased to help them on their way.



Gebrella (pictured)

Our new girl is back in school and aren't her classmates happy to see her - the picture tells a story. Mum couldn't afford to pay for nappies (Gebrella has spina bifida) and pay for school as well so Gebrella had dropped out and they were struggling to get by. That's where we chipped in and Gebrella is back in school with her new school uniform and wheelchair. 'She doesn't look like a beggar.' ... 'No, and she never will again.'

Beselot and Eldana

Our Selam has agreed to let the children use a desk or two for doing their homework and Beselot and Eldana are keen students working together and helping each other. 'That's right Beselot - the square of the hippopotamus is equal to the sum of

the squares of the other two sides ... or something like that.' Selam assures us they are pretty special but we already knew that.

Fasica

Fasica was disabled in the same accident that killed her husband and needs a leg brace. She had tried mending the old broken one with string - not good. We got her measured up at St Gabriel's and the new brace fits like a glove. Fasica will complete her sewing course next month and then we'll get a

sewing machine for her and set her up in business. In the meantime daughter Beselot is modelling yet another dress Mum has made for her and many thanks to the kind folks who sent out the pink boots.

It is now 4 years since we started to care for **Kalkidan**. Her spinal muscular atrophy is being attended to by Dr Tim and the corset he fitted for her is doing its job with no further curvature apparent. The Ethiopian government recently decided to give all poor children free school meals which meant more canteen staff were needed. Mahraig managed to get Mum Bertekan a job as a dinner lady at the school Kalkidan attends which means she is on site to attend to Kalkidan's needs as well as earning a bit in the canteen..

Yeshume is only a few months into her course at Kotebe college but has made a great start achieving over 70% in her first exam. Her modules include psychology, civics and curriculum structure and she is getting to grips with them all. She needs a bit of help with a voice recorder because of her sight problems so we have fixed her up with one - now she's aiming for 100% on the next exam.

You may remember we had electricity installed at **Berhane's** place and bought her a mgogo (little cooker). Berhane is Eldana and baby Makbel's mother. (Actually Makbel is now a toddler. Anyway, Berhane was soon up and running making bread for the 5,000 - well she was before the fasting time started last week. Occupational hazard. No doubt she'll be back on track after Easter.



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Start children off on the right path. And even when they are old, they will not turn away from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Christian Aid Climate Justice Campaign

Will you call for a New Deal for Climate Justice? In 2020, the UK government will be hosting the UN climate talks, (9-19 November in Glasgow) giving it the opportunity to be a champion for climate justice. But to be a real champion, it must take rapid action at home and globally. We want the UK Government to deliver a New Deal for Climate Justice.

Specifically, we want the Government to:

- transfer its fair share of finance and technology to poor and climate-vulnerable countries
- stop fuelling fossil fuel expansion and support clean, renewable energy instead
- develop renewable energy without exploiting people or destroying the environment in the Global South
- curb the over-consumption that is driving climate breakdown
- invest in decarbonising the UK economy in a way that addresses economic and social inequalities.
- Demand a New Deal for Climate Justice. From the indigenous communities whose homes have been destroyed by Amazon fires, to the farming communities in Malawi starving because of drought, the people Christian Aid works with are not facing a climate crisis. They're already living with it.

Those who have done the least to cause this crisis are now living and dying with its impacts. Our current economic system is broken. It's driving inequality, poverty and climate breakdown. But if we act now, we can build a better world, where everyone can flourish.

It's time for a New Deal for Climate Justice.

This year is crucial in the struggle for climate justice. To make it a reality we must underpin it in prayer.

Prayer that will amplify prophetic voices and transform us and the actions that we take.

Prayer that will help us to understand God's care for those who are most affected by the climate crisis, acknowledge our role in causing it and start anew.

Prayer that will act as a deep source of energy for the struggle ahead.

Alongside our friends at CAFOD and Tearfund, and people all over the world, we will fill every day with prayer for a world where everyone can flourish and creation can breathe easy again.

From the start of Lent to the crucial UN climate talks, COP26, we need to pray and act for climate justice. Will you join us?

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain> Call for a new deal for the climate at caid.org.uk/climatejusticepetition

Sign the petition online.

Give for climate justice. Regular giving enables us to stand together with communities worldwide at any given point and make a lasting difference.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change/climate-justice-eaction>

Thank you for your attention.

Alison and Graham Wells – Christian Aid Representatives for St Thomas'

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, Good Lord,

under the shadow of your mercy.

Sustain and support the anxious,

be with those who care for the sick,

and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may find comfort

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.

In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

This year's Appeal is focussed on the drought in Kenya. Rose is pictured below.

Due to Coronavirus house to house collections and Big Brekkie will not take place this year. But you can still help.



In Kenya, the rains haven't come. Again. For villagers who farm the land, that means life is getting even harder. Rivers are bone dry, and crops wither in the fields. The drought is starving people of food, water and the chance to earn a living. At 67 years of age, Rose walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren. She tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl: when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit.

A simple earth dam, built with the help of Christian Aid's partners and your donations, could completely change her life. This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray to stop the climate crisis driving people like Rose to hunger.

This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May), please:

- **Give** generously to help Rose and her community build a water dam, providing fresh water to help families survive the drought.
- **Act** to call for a [New Deal for Climate Justice](#) to help restore creation and build a world where everyone can thrive.

- **Pray** for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that, as a global community, we will care for people living in poverty.
- **Support Christian Aid's Global response.** It is experienced in limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis and will continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates start to develop as they are in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. It will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19. Please pray for this vital work and support it where you can by making a donation. Join it in praying for all those affected by this new virus, both in Britain and overseas, for all those working on the frontline and for wisdom for our leaders.

Christian Aid week made such a difference last year.

Will you stand with us again?

We fought poverty - raising £8m.

Together we raised this incredible amount to help poor communities

We **stood together** – **57 thousand of you gave your time** to take part in Christian Aid Week

An **£8 million shortfall** is a lot of money **so please help if you can.**

Ways to donate to Christian Aid Week <https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/>

- Use our simple, secure online form.
- Call 020 7523 2046 and speak directly to our regular giving team.
- Download our direct debit form (PDF 80.7kb) and post it.

Cheques, Postal Orders, charity vouchers and direct debit forms can be sent to:
Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL

On behalf of the poorest people in our world thank you so much for your support.

Alison and Graham Wells – Christian Aid organisers for St Thomas' Parish

John 4:14

But anyone who drinks the water I give them will never be thirsty. In fact, the water I give them will become a spring of water in them. It will flow up into eternal life.