

# Knowing and worshipping God and sharing His love



## St Nick's, Allestree & St Paul's, Quarndon

August / September 2020

**From the Vicarage**—“Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid” (Matthew 14:27) words spoken by Jesus, as he walked across the lake to the boat where his disciples were being buffeted around by waves. How often have we felt buffeted by the waves generated by the force of this worldwide pandemic? The waves of redundancy and job loss that may be facing our loved ones, neighbours and family, the waves that have buffeted businesses, charities and organisations that thrive and rely on gatherings, the waves of anxiety that we consume us as we fear for our children's futures.

For a long time we have been taught that Christianity is a journey towards an angry God, who will judge us for our wrongdoings- that life is a pilgrimage of fear. But what we read here, is a different story altogether. Rather than us walking in trepidation towards that terrifying God, what we find is our Jesus walking towards us - who are scared - to greet us with words of comfort and peace. 'Do not be afraid' is Jesus' signature message. 'Do not be afraid' is the first thing he wants us to hear every morning; 'Do not be afraid' is what he whispers to us through every change and chance of life; 'Do not be afraid' is what he tells us in the eye of every storm.

This week I heard of a man whose mother died recently, but not from Covid-19. Her son said, 'I think she really died of fear. She suffered badly from kidney disease, which made her feel vulnerable to coronavirus, and she was so terrified of getting it

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**Rest Day:** Friday

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**Rest Day:** Friday



so much so that the anxiety killed her.’ We’ve also heard over the last few weeks of young men from the local area who have taken their own lives through fear of the ruin coming to them having lost their jobs and income.

These are extreme examples of the everyday fears and anxieties we all feel in this deeply disturbing time we’re in. And the background to all this, 75 years on after the annihilation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is our insecurity about the choices our world leaders make on our behalf, to continue to invest in weapons of mass destruction rather than work together to feed us all.

If we’re haunted by the fear of catching this virus, then Jesus walks towards us saying ‘Do not be afraid’. If the ghosts of our past fill us with trepidation of judgement, then Jesus comes to us saying ‘Do not be afraid’. If the anxieties of life threaten to overwhelm us, then Jesus approaches us saying ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’ For children and teachers returning to or starting school, we say ‘take courage, do not be afraid’. In any given moment when we may feel - like Peter - out of our depth, then Jesus reaches out his hand to catch us, saying ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’

We now live in a world, where things can change quickly and we may have to postpone or put things on hold at short notice. This is not unlike the situation I encountered during the civil war years living in Sri Lanka, where I learnt to appreciate every single moment of the day and if things didn’t quite turn out the way I’d expected, it was ok. “Take courage! It is I! Don’t be afraid”.

Yours in faith, Becky

***Lord of life,  
we pray for all those who are suffering  
in our shattered world;  
those who are ill,  
those broken by hurt and division,  
those under attack,  
and those dying.  
Give us compassion to care,  
and courage to act. Amen.***



## Hire Groups Update—Gael Browne

Coming back to work at the beginning of August after maternity leave followed by a short period of furlough has been absolutely wonderful! I still fully enjoy my job and the people I work with, and it's a joy to be back in the office and returning to some semblance of normality.

I'm sure you can appreciate that there has been a lot to get through—there has been a mountain of emails and correspondence back and forth, particularly concerning the hire groups of St Nick's. Most of you will experience or see the one side of my role, which is to assist the ministry team in the administration of church life, including rotas, communications etc. but a lot of you won't see what takes up the bulk of my time, which is the hiring out and managing of the church building.

We have such a vibrant, generous and caring community of hirers at St Nick's. On any given week we have in excess of **twenty-five** groups using the hall, and that doesn't account for all of the one-off bookings for birthdays, concerts, and other things that go on!

With all that in mind, there's been a lot of change to the hiring system that has affected many. We are currently only taking one booking per day to allow a deep clean between use, and we've had to make changes to the invoicing system to allow better cashflow. Having to seriously decrease our intake of groups has been difficult, not only financially, but also because you hear first hand just how these global changes are affecting small, local businesses.

It's also difficult marrying up the 'business' to the compassion and love we are called to show as followers of Jesus. Working for the Church of England and being professional in the role also comes with a challenge I remind myself constantly—'we should make every effort to be the most exemplary employer / organisation in the world'. In all areas. It's a passion of both my husband and myself to explore how to work well in this simultaneous Kingdom of God, and the world. Surely the Church should be the 'gold standard' of employment, fair treatment, and how to do business ethically and with compassion. My first hand experience is that we do pretty well here at St Nick's and St Paul's. Prayer points follow—PTO.

***In your prayers, please remember:***

- Our groups, some of whom are struggling with shielding and trying to maintain a viable business; pray for breakthrough and peace in these troubling times
- Graham, Clive, and Paul, who all work hard, voluntarily, alongside me to make sure the system we have is good and works for the benefit of all
- Our finances as a church, that we would see God's marvellous provision and sustenance in this area. That He would be our daily bread and give us what we need
- Community. Please ask God to show you where you can help in this great big mission field we have before us. It is such a privilege to be able to host these wonderful people; how are we going to love them and reach them with Good News?

**Outdoors Said Communion Service—**

**August 30th**

There are plans afoot for a joint churches Said Communion Service on Sunday 30th August - at St Nick's, 10am outside the Church Hall - Lawn Avenue side. Please get in touch with our church administrator, Gael Browne, on 01332 550431 or email [stnick-sallestree@outlook.com](mailto:stnick-sallestree@outlook.com) to book a place.



You will need to bring your own chair or something to sit on - we can provide chairs but need to know in advance. You will need your Bible, writing materials if you like to make notes and your own refreshments. Households can sit together or those who have formed 'bubble groups'. Please bear in mind it's an outdoor service - if it rains you'll need appropriate clothing! If it's very heavy rain, it might not happen - hence please let us know if you'd like to come so we can get in touch if it's cancelled.

You may like to wear a face-covering, but we will be outside and social-distancing. Communion will just be in one kind only as Church of England guidance permits.

## Lockdown Reflections—Anna Oldknow

When Revd. Becky asked me to write this article I was...reluctant, the challenge of how to put into words and express the complex rollercoaster that has been the last 4-5 months is daunting and we're still in it and I'm still processing!

Being in lockdown with a 3, now 4 year old has had its extreme highs and lows, I think all of us can recognise to a degree how the everyday has been amplified and intensified in terms of emotions. Trying to juggle work and parenting in the house was interesting. My husband is self-employed and thanks to God has managed to keep working through all this (all be it at a reduced rate, more labour intensive way). At the beginning of lockdown God sent us a feathered blessing in that we randomly inherited a poorly chicken named Babs! I honestly believe God was in this as acquiring Babs gave us a focus outside of ourselves, a call to be in the garden and entertained as we got nurse and learn about our new family pet, she kept me sane! And for a month or so we were also adopted by a mated pair of wild mallard ducks, who we affectionately named John & Phoebe. Grace takes many forms!!

I was thankful when I was furloughed at the beginning of May to be able to focus on time with my daughter before she starts school and supporting my husband more at this time. However, then started an interesting journey. When you stop doing your job the question arises for many of us "who am I?" as our society often defines our identity this way. This was a hard chapter to navigate and was further compounded by a daughter about to start primary school in September, and that's not to say this chapter is over BUT after a season of wallowing and just surviving God hammered on the door. By this I mean a series of events, conversations, moments God captured/



demanded my attention and since then has been reminding me of who He is and who I am in Him. What a God?! All praise to Him who is worthy and never gives up on us!

So in a nut shell lockdown has been a rollercoaster of highs and lows but through it all it's been about reconnecting. Reconnecting with family, nature, community, God and self. So if you're reading this and having one of those days where it's like wading through concrete and hope seems a small thread I pray that you would know and encounter God today, that He would hijack your day, I pray that the Holy Spirit would fill you afresh with His joy and peace and you would be reminded that you are His beloved and cherished beyond all measure and He is a good Father who gives His kids the best.

Love,  
Anna



### **Dawn's Priesting!**

Dawn's priesting details have been confirmed! She will be priested on Saturday 26th September by Bishop Libby in Derby Cathedral.

The time is to be confirmed, and further details will follow about the live streaming of this, given the restrictions imposed due to Covid. Dawn would welcome prayers, particularly from the Wednesday when a form of retreat has been organised.

Even though we can't be there in the flesh to support her, let's commit to pray for Dawn—definitely a day for your diaries!



## **Meeting the Need—Clare Stacey**

Dear All,

What a chapter! I still have not got used to our new way of living but I am getting there! At the beginning of lockdown, I will be honest, I went into a state of



panic – no going out, no seeing people, no work and no holidays. I asked myself what I was going to do? I knew I had to do all of the normal, everyday jobs with five people living in the house, so that was going to keep me busy and I continued to work from home too but how was I going to make a difference to a global crisis? I shared my overwhelming need to help on Zoom with everyone and Sally emailed me the same day to say that the hospital needed laundry bags for the nurses/ doctors to put their clothes in to after a days work to ensure that the virus wasn't being spread to other household members. I am not a sewer, but I do have a sewing machine and I gave it a go! I made twenty bags that day and then put out a message on social media – they were collected and delivered to the hospital. I had found it – my way of helping and trying to make a small difference. I continued to make the bags with my daughter, Chris, Celia and my mum on board too and between us we managed to make three hundred and fifty of them. I had a lovely nurse, Sally, from Ypres road who collected them weekly and stayed for a chat too.

When the hospital had enough bags, we were asked to make masks for the staff who travel on public transport. Again, that need was satisfied – I could do something to make a difference. We continued to make the masks until July and managed to make approximately five hundred between us. I really enjoyed chatting to Celia each week as I went to collect her masks and it was lovely seeing Chris at the door with her bags. I think this chapter will have chilling memories for me but also good ones of chatting to more people who I did not know before and being part of that wartime spirit.

I hope everyone from our Church is well and continues to be so as our new normal takes over. Take care everyone.

## **Prayer Pack**

At the start of Lent this year, I met with about 18 of you from both churches to work through the study course by Paula Gooder, “Making Good Sense of the Bible”. This covered a number of aspects we need to consider in order to deepen our understanding today; such as who the author and original audience were, the original text and the Bible translations we use today, and the type of writing used and how to recognise this genre. We did not, of course finish it..... However one book that I recommended was “How to Read the Bible Book by Book” by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart as a good introduction to each book of the Bible. I hope to finish or revisit that course in due course so I am not repeating it right now.

In this Prayer Pack, ( I use the term loosely as there are other bits and pieces in the pack,) I have included a different way of reading the Bible- the practice of Lectio Divina (page 10) – this method is more about the heart than the head, and actually dwelling in God’s word and listening rather than doing the talking yourself.

You will need a short time of undisturbed silence and it involves reading the passage at least 3 times. In the last pack that was sent, the Church of England Daily Readings until 30th September were included- try choosing a daily passage and practicing the discipline of Lectio Divina- it’s amazing what can be revealed to you personally by God- I ended up being called to ordination!

Rev. Dawn

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## **September Plans:**

The plan for September is to try and get us back in the buildings - this is dependent on our risk assessments being in place and signed off the Archdeacon of Derby. We have a lot of signage to get up around the buildings and as you're aware, it's now mandatory for face-coverings to be worn in churches, unless you are exempt.

We have one-way systems, sanitizing zones and new protocols to follow. We hope to have a service in each church, although timings may be different to the norm.

If you have not returned your questionnaire, please do so, and if you haven’t received one please contact Rev. Dawn. These responses are helpful in gaging your

## **Lockdown Poetry**

A trainee vicar in Wales is posting a poem a day on social media to try and lift people's spirits during the lockdown.

Ben Lines composes and films minute-long poems to encourage people to keep going with a simple message of hope and faith. They reflect his own experience of faith and family life during lockdown – recording the joys and challenges of studying from home, looking after his two young sons with his wife, and keeping up his fitness as a marathon runner.

### **Day #13: The Now and Not Yet**

**Another Sunday comes with no physical church,  
We're still finding our feet as forward we lurch.**

**It is brilliant to see such creative expression,  
Flowing forth from the body in every session.**

**We're zooming, youtube-ing, calling and posting,  
We're doing our best to connect and keep floating.**

**Ministers and congregations are being challenged and stretched,  
And I'm excited to know that the best is to come yet.**

**This is second best, not how things should be,  
And yet I believe this is helping us to see.**

**What is most important, we'd become disenchanted,  
The simplest of joys we've been taking for granted.**

**So as we look forward lets be hopeful and not mope,  
Things can change for the better and in that there is hope.**

**What's important is Jesus, His presence and feeding,  
He is with us and for us and to a new place He is leading.**

You can find Ben on YouTube—search 'Ben Lines'.

*Maybe you have a knack for poetry—perhaps you could send in a reflection to include in our next issue?*

# The Big Church Read

The Big Church Read was founded in 2020 as a joint initiative from St Andrew's Bookshop and Hodder & Stoughton to encourage a culture of reading good Christian books within the UK Church.

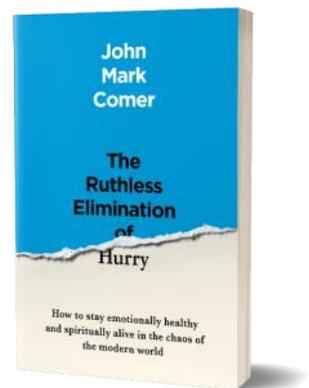
It's no exaggeration to say that books change lives and we all know the feeling of wanting to share a book that we've really enjoyed with all our family and friends. The Big Church Read brings together this passion for good Christian books from the UK's biggest booksellers and publishers to create a national Church bookclub that we can all take part in for free. Churches, organisations or individuals can take part – absolutely free of charge – and join us to read through our chosen book together.

Church groups and individuals can join in for free by registering their details on the website where, at 7.00 p.m. each Monday evening, an exclusive video with John Mark Comer will be released introducing the themes of that week's chapter so groups can discuss with their friends, prompted by a range of starter questions which are available for free in the resource pack.

'The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry' is the book that everyone in the UK Church is talking about. It offers a fresh, challenging and compassionate response to busyness, based on the way of life Jesus offered his disciples. Join John Mark Comer this September as he launches the Big Church Read – a free, six-week, collective exploration of the ideas that have helped him slow down, follow the way of Jesus and change his life.

***Find out more about how to sign up and receive a £5 discount off the book at: [www.thebigchurchread.co.uk](http://www.thebigchurchread.co.uk)***

*(I read this book during lockdown and absolutely loved it; it really was a life-changer! Very challenging, and full of lightbulb moments! - Gael)*



## Discipleship Training

*Now's the time to apply!*

The next Discipleship Online training module starts in September and you have until Wednesday, 9 September to make your application.

Revd Julie Lomas will lead the module exploring pastoral care in its many forms. The module is fully online and consists of seven online sessions plus three study days.

Here's some feedback from our current students:

*"Loving the course, it's brilliant!"*

*"Great content, really well delivered"*

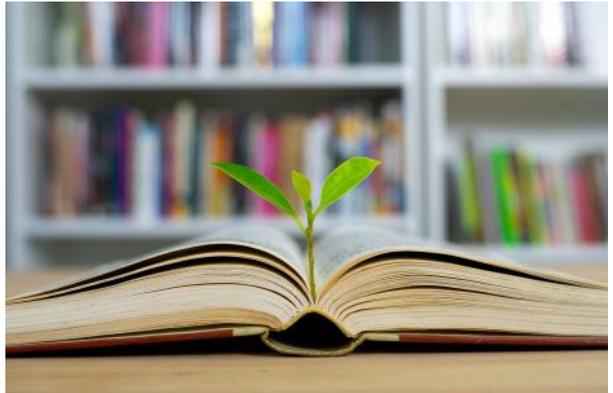
*"The course is excellent, thank you."*

For more info, please contact  
Revd Dawn Glen, Course Director,  
by email:

***dawn.glen@derby.anglican.org***

For more information on the  
course and modules, please go to:

***www.discipleship-training.org***



### **Newsletter Information - Deadline!**

Please be aware that the deadline for any news you'd like to be included in the next Newsletter is always the 16th of the month before.

Any info should be sent to the church office on *stnicksallestreet@outlook.com*

### **Birthdays**

If you've got a big birthday coming up, maybe 80, 90..... 100?! We'd love to know so that we can celebrate with you!

*Please speak to Christine C who coordinates church birthday cards.*

## Upcoming Services

<b>Dates/Services</b>	<b>Leaders</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Sunday 30th August</b> 10am Outdoor Service: St Nick's	<i>Becky</i> <i>Phil &amp; Anna</i>	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Matthew 16:21-end
<b>Sunday 6th September</b> St Nick's: 10am Said Holy Communion St Paul's: 4pm All Age	<i>Becky</i> <i>Anna &amp; Team</i>	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Matthew 18:15-20
<b>Sunday 13th September</b> St Nick's: 4pm All Age St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion	<i>Anna &amp; Team</i> <i>Becky</i>	Genesis 50:15-21 Matthew 18:21-35
<b>Sunday 20th September</b> St Nick's: 8am Said Holy Communion / 10am All Age St Paul's: 4pm Holy Communion	<i>Lee / Dawn &amp;</i> <i>Team</i> <i>Becky</i>	Jonah 3:10-end of 4 Matthew 20:1-16
<b>Sunday 27th September</b> St Nick's: 4pm Holy Communion St Paul's 10am Morning Praise	<i>Dawn</i> <i>Phil</i>	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end Matthew 21:23-32

### September All Age Services 2020

This month our All Age service (or Informal Worship at St. Nick's) is going to look a little different! We're trialling a new time of 4pm and this month we're going to have the service in and outside of the church buildings. Intrigued? Then join us on the 6th at St. Paul's and 13th at St. Nick's. Please wear sturdy footwear as church yards can be uneven and muddy and bring coats in case it's chilly. Also bringing your own colouring pens or writing implement would be handy. We look forward to meeting together then (at a social distance), to meet with God and journey together in His presence.

Please get in touch if you'd like to talk to us about organising a Baptism or Thanksgiving service for the Gift of a Child at St Nick's or would like to get married or celebrate a special anniversary with the renewal of wedding vows.

Vicar Becky is always happy to respond to enquiries.