

# February Life

## Editorial Notes

In Manna this month you will find a message from the Dean of Wells about Love and Covid, in place of the usual message from our Bishop, also there is an insight into Hospital Chaplaincy during Covid from Julia French, and 'Living Lent in Lockdown', plus the usual 'News in Brief'.

I hope you are enjoying the Manna supplement each month, I think it is a better way to relate the news from the Diocese and I would imagine it is read by more people in our local churches.

I was pleased to receive an article from the Rev Dr Andrew Daunton-Fear whose father Richard was the Rector of Street during the Second World War.

I have just received an article about St Andrews Church Bells which will feature in the March addition of Life. We in Street have so missed the welcoming sound of the bells during the pandemic and look forward to hearing the peals once more.

Also Trinity Handbells have been silent, and we can't wait to be together ringing again. Meanwhile stay safe and keep following the rules.

Roger.

## Rector's Letter.

"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13. 34

Dear Friends,

With so many personal tragedies and national uncertainties over the last few months, we have become used to politicians and other leaders appearing on our screens offering their sympathy and "thoughts and prayers" to all those affected.

However genuinely meant, it can be easy to become numb to such words; after all it's what you'd expect such people to say on these occasions.

The word 'love' is a bit like that. Particularly this month when we celebrate Valentine's Day with a national splurge of

expressions of love, it can all feel a bit over commercialised and frankly a bit trite.

Yet love is one of the most powerful words in the English language and is also a word that has many layers of meaning. Love for friends or family, love for a football team or love for a favourite brand of chocolate all use the same word but are understood very differently.

When Jesus uses the word 'love' as in the bible verse at the top, he means something different again. This is the self-giving, selfless, world changing love that led Him to offer his life for us; a love that we are called to emulate as we love one another and love our communities. Not soppy, not soft focus but a love that offers transformation, reconciliation and redemption. As we struggle through months of restrictions, stories of personal tragedy and huge pressures on our way of life, let's be people who offer that Christ-like love to others. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby recently offered a really practical way of loving in these pandemic times when he said:  
"Wearing a mask is loving your neighbour.  
Keeping your distance is loving your neighbour.  
Washing your hands is loving your neighbour.  
Let's keep loving our neighbours."  
With my love and prayers, Ana.

## **Ana's Articles.**

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

This year, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, falls on 17<sup>th</sup> February and we will be marking the beginning of this season in the church's life with an online quiet and reflective service at 7pm via Zoom. Please put the date in your diary and join us if you can.  
Ana Lawrence

## **Book Club**

Maybe your New Year's resolution was to read more or perhaps the recent lockdown weeks have got you back into reading? If you would value the chance to read Christian books alongside others and then 'meet' over a glass of something, why not join our SWCD book club? No pressure and no expectation, just a chance to read and be together. To express an interest, please contact me. Ana Lawrence

## **House groups Lenten Challenge**

It has been great to hear some of the stories of support and encouragement that members of our house groups have been able to be for one another over the last few challenging months. House groups are a place to learn and share together as well as enjoy each other's company whether they meet online or in person.

This Lent can I issue an invitation to those who might have been considering joining a group to give it a go over the period of Lent. Contact me if you would be interested.

Ana Lawrence

## **Walton Matters.**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5. V's 1-5. NIV.

## **Operation Christmas Child.**

As, yet we haven't heard where our shoeboxes have been sent but we have had an update from Samaritans Purse. Our boxes were collected from our drop off point and taken to the processing centre to ensure they are ready to speed through destination countries custom checks. During this careful checking process, the barcodes will be scanned and a destination country allocated. The boxes are then sealed and packed into cartons ready to go into a shipping container or lorry.

Your lovingly packed gifts will then be on their way to reach the hands of thousands of children across Eastern Europe, Africa and Central Asia. Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, this process has taken a little longer than usual and as a result, we haven't received notification as to where they have travelled. Be assured they are well on the way and we will be notified as soon as possible. God has a plan for each shoebox gift so please continue to pray for the children and for Samaritans Purse in their work.

It has been such a joy to see the many delighted faces around the village as Baby Jesus Rocks were found and taken home, or hidden again for others to find. Plus the Christingle bags and the comfort and joy bags which reached different age groups. A beautiful comfort and joy booklet was a perfect read and meditation over the Christmas period. Thank you Ana and Diana for your ideas and ingenious ways of reaching people while our Churches are closed. God's work is never closed.

I am very pleased to tell you that Walton churchyard now has 3 bug hotels and 3 bird boxes. Its little steps towards making our churchyard a haven for bugs, butterflies and birds. It would be lovely if after this pandemic is over, we can encourage our young people to take an interest in wildlife.

Our next news is that the church clock will have been removed

for cleaning and will be replaced automated. We will miss glancing up for the time but look forward to the replacing of the clock. A huge thank you to Laurence who has climbed the tower every week to wind it up and set the time right. Well done Laurence.

It is with sorrow we have to tell you of the death of Les Allen. Dear Les has been an important part of the village and of our coffee morning group for such a long time. He will be missed by us all and we send our love to Anne, Daphne and Jenny at this sad time. Sandra.

## **Compton Dundon News.**

Dear friends,  
Here's hoping that you had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas, however you spent it.

We enjoyed two Carol Services in St Andrew's on December 20th, led by Mike Bergner and John Greed.  
Thank you to all those who read so beautifully, and to everyone who came to share the Christmas message, hear the carols and see the church and porch festively decorated.

There were less people at the Midnight and Christmas Day Communion, but they were lovely meaningful services nevertheless and enjoyed by all who attended. It was good to welcome baby Jesus in the porch manger on Christmas Day!

Many of us enjoyed Christmas shopping at the Compton Street Christmas stall on three Saturdays in December.  
As a result of a joint village effort contributing, crafting, baking, buying and serving a wonderful total of almost £2,500 was raised for St Andrew's Church and £500 for 'Crisis at Christmas.'

A special 'thank you' to Celia for being the inspiration behind the stall and for her hard work hosting it each week.

As we move into the New Year, we pray that the stricter measures being taken, together with the two vaccines, may bring us a release from the virus and hope for a better year ahead.

Wishing a Happy and Healthy 2021 to everyone,

St Andrew's, Compton Dundon.

## ***WATCH – Happy 2021 : or not ?***

Listening to Premier Radio last night while doing something else I heard a talk by Jeff Lucas. The only bit of which I remember was his closing words “Get Real!” It was a plea for Christians to tell it how it really is and not play games pretending everything is ok when in all honesty it really isn't. So, here goes...

Did you have a good Christmas? For me it was the worst ever. I didn't get to any Christmas services whatsoever. And I contributed very little to such family celebrations as were possible. We usually go over to Wales for a few days when my dear wife can actually get away without a huge backlog of work building up in the office to await her return. We really look forward to going to midnight communion at St David's Cathedral every year. Then it all suddenly went out of the window. The Welsh government told anyone from the rest of the UK to keep out, and this was enforced by the local police armed with £200 fines and number-plate recognition cameras. Then we worked out that with the Christmas Day 'truce' (sounds a bit like the first Christmas in World War 1 when British and German troops played football together in No Man's Land and sang Silent Night, each in their own language). So we went for the day. It was legal as long as, like Cinderella, we were back by midnight. Jill managed to find a Christmas service from St David's Cathedral on her phone including the Bishop's message delivered on zoom. The crib this year was under the high altar giving

great visibility. Usually it is down a side aisle where there are candles burning in the straw and my main worry is what will happen if one gets knocked over! No doubt a relevant Risk Assessment has been done. **But** the one thing I do remember is the core of Bishop Joanna's message. She is always good and full of joy and hope but with her feet firmly rooted in reality. Her message for us in 2021 in the middle of these very difficult times was simply this

**EVEN WHEN...**

**EVEN IF...**

**EVEN THEN...**

**EMMANUEL – GOD IS WITH US!**

These few words sank deep into my psyche and I will keep reminding myself of them as we battle through the coming days. There are no easy answers – but God in the person of His Son Jesus, the Messiah, is walking with us every step we take as we put our faith in Him. Remember the 'Footsteps in the sand' story? That's all we need. One day at a time. *Bernard*

## **Eco Church News.**

*Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. Luke 12.27*

The Eco Church group has now grown to 7 members representing all 3 parishes. We have been completing a new survey for each of the 4 churches in the Benefice. We are reviewing what is already in place and will be suggesting areas for possible action. One focus will be our churchyards. A starting point is to look at what is already there and then suggest further enhancements to benefit wildlife. We are also aware of those who visit our churchyards to tend graves and/or for personal

contemplation and prayer. Plants: trees, shrubs and flowers, both native and introduced, provide the backdrop and part of the appeal of these spaces.

The verse from Luke is a reminder of the glory of plant life. Look carefully at a plant, study its shape and colour, how amazing each one is. Plants are a joy and inspiration in themselves but also provide food and a habitat for wildlife; birds, butterflies, moths, bees and other insects. In return plants need birds and insects for pollination and to keep predators in check.

This is a time of year when gardeners may be thinking of the season ahead and what to plant. For those for whom the focus is on growing food there culinary plants which are beneficial to wildlife.

Kay has compiled a list of wildlife-friendly plants including culinary ones; if you would like a copy please let us know. Here are just a few culinary plants from the list: fruit trees and bushes, chives, oregano. Decorative plants include sedums, alliums, verbena, echinops and perennial geraniums (cranesbills). Insects need many species of flowering plants over the spring/summer/autumn, but those that flower early and late in the year are especially valuable, when there are far fewer food sources available. There is a gap of flowering plants in June/July when plants like lavender, nepeta and viper's bugloss are very helpful. Single rather than double versions of flowers are most beneficial. An aspect of plants that can be overlooked is to plan planting so that there is something in flower in every season. It is always a joy to see something flowering in the darker days of winter and they provide nectar on milder days for early flying bees and other insects. Plants in this group include hellebores,

snowdrops, crocuses and shrubs such as mahonia and winter flowering honeysuckle.

Last but not least three plants which some regard as weeds, ivy, brambles and nettles. Could we learn to love them? They support so many of our favourite butterflies and other insects as well as providing food for birds. With hawthorn they are among our most important native plants. If you have a garden please consider allowing a small corner for these plants.

Sue Ripley, SWCD Eco Church group

### **Here to Help (prayerfully) with your Concerns:**

Are there times when you want to pray about something but find it is just too much and you would value others to support you by praying for that concern? Within the Benefice there is a small group of people, the Prayer Support Group, who have a heart for prayer and who have agreed to provide supporting prayer for those needs and concerns that might be brought to their attention.

In undertaking this service, we are following Jesus' teaching - "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours". (Mark 11v24 NIV)

And, the guidance of Paul in his letter to Timothy – "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people ". (1 Timothy 2v2 NIV)

Over the last year the Group has received many requests covering a wide range of situations. We know our supporting prayers are valued from the comments people have made – for example, recently one person said "I am so thankful for the prayer support group for being faithful in prayer when we were going through a particularly tough time".

Making a request for supporting prayer is simple – please either send an email to [prayers.street@gmail.com](mailto:prayers.street@gmail.com) or contact Jeff Brewer by telephone – 07970881779.

You can give as much or as little information as you wish but enough so your concern can be understood. Your prayer request will only be shared with those who are part of the Prayer Support Group; they will include your request in their prayer time over the coming days. We will treat any information you may provide in absolute confidence this is because sometimes the issues we are asked to pray about can be very sensitive. In some instances, Data Protection Rules may preclude sharing the full name of the person being prayed for.

Jeff Brewer, Prayer Co-ordinator

*Since 1991, **Children’s Hospice South West** has been dedicated to making the most of short and precious lives through providing first-class care and support for children with life-limiting conditions and their families across the South West.*

I have received a letter from CHSW containing the following information (Autumn) I thought might be of interest to you.

“Since mid-March, the way we deliver care and support to families has looked very different - gone are routine respite stays, and in their place is a brand new model ‘HOSPICE, HOME & VIRTUAL’ - meeting the needs of children & families wherever they are & whenever our support makes the most difference. At a time when Hospitals and other providers have not allowed visitors, we have been able to adapt our Hospices into zones to ensure that families are able to stay together during the final days of their child’s life.

Whilst we are working very differently, we still continue to offer end of life care & emergency stays at Charlton Farm.

Much of our care is now beyond the hospice sites, spreading out right across the community - providing nursing care in the family home, giving parents a break from their 24/7 caring role and

sometimes simply being a friendly face (behind a PPE mask, of course) and providing a listening ear. From food parcels to activity packs and play sessions, together with your support, we have been there.

And the support isn't just physically in family homes - through Zoom, Skype and good old-fashioned telephone calls, our nursing and care staff have been a constant source of support, help & advice. Together thanks to your kindness we have been making some 1,400 virtual connections each and every week. Your support, your kindness and your donations make you a very special part of the Children's Hospice South West team."

Now is the time when we can save our used postage stamps. Please remember to trim a 1cm border around each stamp.

Place it in a bag and wait to hear from me. I will send details for collection in Lifeline in the New Year.

As well as a charity shop at the top of Glastonbury High Street there are also charity shops in Wells and Shepton Mallet.

Carolyn Dulborough 01458 443255

## **World Day of Prayer.**

As in previous years the Women's Day of Prayer is always held on first Friday in March which will be 5th March 2021. Please put a reminder in your diary for this date.

Hopefully, we will be able to go ahead in a real location by then but I will be in touch with you via Lifeline with full details next month. Carolyn

## **Safe Families Information Evenings**

*Following the article in January Life about 'Safe families' Dawn Holmes the co-ordinator, has been in touch with details of future information evenings for those who may be interested.*

We have families in your area who are looking for a friend to walk alongside them, to offer hope and belonging – do you know someone who could reach out via phone calls, or visiting when it's allowed again, or even hosting children overnight?

**Drop in to one of our Safe Families Information Evenings to find out more!**

**7-7.30pm on Zoom on the last Monday of every month (ish!)**

**22nd Feb, 29th March**

Contact Dawn on 07384 21882 or [dawnholmes@safefamilies.uk](mailto:dawnholmes@safefamilies.uk).

## **New year's greetings from Mfuwe, Zambia.**

Received from their paster Father George on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

“Happy New year you to you all.

We in Mfuwe are fine despite being hit with yet more floods again.

Covid 19 has left a big gap where jobs are concerned. We have not shut down the churches but are observing the social distancing and other guide lines.

I'm in my new house although not yet finished we are remaining with plastering of the house and connecting it with power.

We have not changed our plans for 2020 as most of the planned activities were not done.

We want to construct a rice Mill shelter for income generating which we believe will be better as most people are rice growers and supported with the floods. The project will cost us Zmk 6000 we have bricks and labour available.

Please pray for us as we also pray for you during the covid shut down.

Thanks again may God bless you  
Rev Fr. George”

*Ed. 6000Zmw is equal to £208.43p.*

## Hot from the Press!!

This January the book *Treasures from a Deep Mine: Readings for Lent and Daily Life* by Alison Daunton-Fear is being published by Onwards & Upwards. Alison was the wife of Richard Daunton-Fear, Rector of Street 1940-44. The book consists of a Foreword by the Rt. Revd. Michael Turnbull, former Bishop of Durham, a biographical Introduction, and then 40 devotional talks given by Alison in England and Australia over a period of 30 years. Some of her most poignant talks were given in Street, bringing comfort to anguished minds during the war. They can, I believe, bring comfort too in our present very different crisis.

Mother was trained at Ridglands Bible College, and the Bible knowledge she gained there was put to very good use in assisting my father in his ministry. She was generally given charge of women's groups, particularly the Mothers' Union. She clearly had a gift for public speaking and sometimes, in Street and elsewhere, spoke to wider audiences. When my father was Archdeacon of Tamworth in New South Wales, she gave a series of evening epilogues broadcast over local radio. Some of these are in this book, which can be ordered now through local bookshops or Amazon, retail price £11.99. For further information go to [www.onwardsandupwards.org/treasures-from-a-deep-mine](http://www.onwardsandupwards.org/treasures-from-a-deep-mine) (Rev Dr) Andrew Daunton-Fear Email: fear.no.evil70@gmail.com

## Manna

**Living Lent in lockdown** Lent symbolises the 40 days where Christ was led into the wilderness and was subjected to temptations. This year, Lent runs from Ash Wednesday, February 17 until Saturday April 3. This makes 45 days but Sundays aren't counted in Lent (which is why some people who 'give things up' for Lent, don't do so on Sundays!)

In 2021, Lent will begin while we are still in lockdown and many may feel that they have been deprived of more than enough in the last 12 months! How can we use Lent this year to sustain ourselves spiritually in a time of lockdown? How might it inspire us to share our faith more widely with those suffering from loneliness and fear in isolation?

Matthew's Gospel makes it clear that 'for forty days and forty nights Jesus fasted and became very hungry'. Traditionally, Christians have also fasted during Lent, though there are many different ways of doing so, and some take on other spiritual disciplines.

Harley Wykes, who is on the Diocesan ministry experience scheme, is committing to pray in Lent this year for a breakthrough in the life of the world as we all experience the Covid pandemic. He says: "We can pray that humanity will band together to effectively vaccinate those who need it most. We can also pray that the vaccine will be able to fight any new strains of Covid that may emerge."

If you would like to explore your faith this Lent, take a look at the #LiveLent resources from the Church of England, which seeks to encourage everyone to think about their Christian calling, share their faith and reflect on the difference Christ makes in our lives. [www.churchofengland.org/livelent](http://www.churchofengland.org/livelent)

## **News in brief**

### **School governors wanted**

Are you looking for your next challenge? Perhaps you would like to put your skills and experience to good use or even want to enhance your CV and develop skills in other areas. If so, you

may wish to consider volunteering as a foundation governor in one of our fabulous church schools. Now, more than ever, our church schools need you.

We have vacancies in many of our schools across the diocese in primary, middle and secondary school age ranges in both Local Authority maintained and Academy Schools'.

If you would like more information and would like to talk with someone from the team, please contact Vicky Christophers, School Organisation & Governance Adviser by emailing [vicky.christophers1@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:vicky.christophers1@bathwells.anglican.org)

## **Refreshed and inspired**

Over 800 people across Somerset took part in Prayer: Everyone, Everywhere: the online Archdeaconry 'Days' which took place last month. Julia Hill, Discipleship Team Leader said: "It was fantastic to see people engaging with prayer across the diocese. God invites us to bring our whole selves to prayer and I felt that if at least one person was inspired to pray doing something that they love then the week was worthwhile. From the feedback it seems many people have been inspired and refreshed which is wonderful."

## **Angels rewarded**

The Angel of Hope project organised by St John's Church Wellington has been out and about presenting their 'Everyday Angel' awards; to say, 'thank you', to those who quietly make a positive contribution to their community. More than 150 certificates awarded to people of all ages in Wellington and the surrounding villages.

## **What does love require?**

A message from John Davies, Dean of Wells

Having heard the announcement about the latest lockdown, I walked over to the Cathedral. I sat at the back and looked up at the Cross in the Nave. A question welled up as I sat: 'what does love require in the cold climate of Covid?', with empty streets, people shut in, schools and businesses closed.

Like many clergy I have a list of people to lift with a phone call or email. Everyone can of course ring neighbours and friends and family. And offer a word, distanced, in the street; a wave to a window; a card through a letterbox.

My neighbour is those I know and care for. But Christ teaches that my neighbour is also on the streets, needy and destitute. Foodbanks and charities need urgent assistance in a cold climate where indifference is not unknown.

It might be quite simple: shopping, love taking us to the supermarket. It might be conversation: love says listen as they pour it all out. It might be a bit more complicated. My neighbour might be disabled – is practical help needed? My neighbour might be held as a slave at a car wash. How do I discreetly ask? When do I alert the Clewer initiative? My neighbour may be gay, does love ask me to affirm or keep a distance? My neighbours may be black. How do I show my belief that black lives really matter?

Love can be very active in the cold climate of today. But love needs replenishing. Love becomes brittle and bossy if it is given but not received. Love means that I must be open to others, for they may want to love me and be a neighbour to me by loving me.

God is love, so in the cold climate of Covid, when community is weakened, let us give and receive love. And the coldness will vanish because love has come to stay.

John Davies  
Dean of Wells

## **Interview**

### **Going where we are called**

*Julia French, Lead Chaplain and Head of Spiritual Care at Musgrove Park Hospital Trust, shares an insight into hospital chaplaincy during Covid.*

*How has Covid affected chaplaincy in your hospitals?*

With our 50 or so volunteers not allowed in, our chaplains went from working office hours plus Sunday mornings to covering twelve-hour days, seven days a week. Overnight on-call was stopped to ensure we all got some uninterrupted sleep.

Visiting is restricted so we support relatives by facilitating phone and video calls. We still try and visit every ward each week and those patients referred to us by staff, family, friends or church communities within 24 hours. Some patients who need a high degree of support we see every day.

### **Do you visit patients with Covid or is it too risky?**

Yes, wearing appropriate PPW which for patients on ventilators means surgical gowns, gloves, FFP3 masks and goggles. We are grateful PPE is available and we are allowed in to see these patients, but it does increase the length of every visit very significantly. To a degree yes it is risky, but we go where we are called.

## **Do you have a message for those with loved ones in hospital?**

Be assured that ward staff are still very much caring for their patients as individuals. Although it is a difficult environment to work in, even more so now than in the first wave, everyone is still focused on putting the patient first.

## **If someone wishes one of the chaplaincy team to visit a patient at Musgrove, how do they get in touch?**

Telephone 01823 342515 (there is an answerphone which is checked several times a day)

E-Mail [Chaplains.Acute@Somersetft.nhs.uk](mailto:Chaplains.Acute@Somersetft.nhs.uk)

Read more about Julia and hospital chaplaincy during Covid at [bathwells.anglican.org/hospital-chaplain](http://bathwells.anglican.org/hospital-chaplain)

## **U.C.B.                      Stages of spiritual growth**

‘... I AM WRITING TO YOU, FATHERS, BECAUSE YOU KNOW HIM WHO HAS BEEN FROM THE BEGINNING ...’ 1 JOHN 2:13

What makes you a spiritual adult? Knowing God; it's that simple! But this raises a question. How can you know that you know God intimately? It's like a good marriage: two people fall in love and become so close that each one knows what the other is thinking and feeling without a word being spoken.

But such intimacy is not developed overnight. It's the product of time spent together and commitment! Paul speaks about, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him." For to us God revealed them

through the Spirit ...' (1 Corinthians 2:9-10). The mature follower of Christ sees things the human eye can't see and hears things the most acute ear can't hear. And they have thoughts they didn't originate on their own. That's because God's indwelling Spirit is helping them to think God's thoughts. What an advantage!

You will know you are spiritually mature when God lets you pick up on thoughts and insights from his Word that go far beyond what someone told you, or what you heard in a sermon. That's because the Holy Spirit is now free to send His message clearly and directly to you. In other words we will '... know the things freely given to us by God' (1 Corinthians 2:12). But that means we have to be close enough to hear God speaking to us.

Such intimacy doesn't just happen. It's not an afterthought. It must be your number one priority and the consuming passion of your life.

*From the daily readings in 'The Word for Today'. This booklet of devotional readings is published every three months and is available free of charge through the generosity of supporters, from: UCB Operations Centre, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF. Tel: 0845 60 40 401. Email: [ucb@ucb.co.uk](mailto:ucb@ucb.co.uk)*

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