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Services

May 2020—all services temporarily suspended during the covid-19 pandemic, but online versions available on our website and YouTube channel.

For (nearly) up to the minute news, visit our new website:
www.sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

If you're on Facebook—then 'like' our Facebook pages—
and join in the conversation -
Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church
And **Babes and Tots—Sandhurst**

And if you tweet, we're there too:
@SandYMethChurch

To get in touch email:

Stewards: steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
Hall hire: halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
Weekly notices: notices@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
Monthly Newsletter: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
Multimedia: multimedia@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
Website: siteadmin@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
Anything else: info@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk



*Sandhurst and Yateley
Methodist Church
Newsletter
May 2020*

The Minister writes...



Dear friends,

I hope you are keeping well in these difficult times and that those of you who are on your own are not feeling isolated but are being buoyed up by phone calls/ video calls/ emails and even good old-fashioned notelets so that you know people are thinking of you and praying for you – just as indeed you are thinking of and praying for others. If you are able to, please do check the church website regularly and join in with the acts of worship and Bible teaching which have been uploaded on to it as well as on our new YouTube channel which you can access via this link (or simply by putting YouTube into your search engine and then Sandhurst & Yateley Methodist Church):

[https://www.youtube.com/results?](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sandhurst+and+yateley+methodist+church)

[search_query=sandhurst+and+yateley+methodist+church](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sandhurst+and+yateley+methodist+church)

During the time since Easter, I have been thinking about the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to his disciples and others. There are quite a few recorded in the different gospels.... Matthew tells how Jesus appears to the women as they hurry away from their encounter with an angel at the empty tomb; in Luke's account, Jesus appears as a stranger to two followers on the road to Emmaus; in John's gospel he appears to Mary Magdalene in the garden and then later to the other disciples behind locked doors, much later still he appears on the beach when the disciples are out fishing.

There are other mentions also of how Jesus appeared to many people but the ones above are the only ones where we have any detail in the stories and what has always intrigued me is that, in most of them, Jesus is not immediately recognised. True, the disciples recognise Jesus when he appears to them in the locked room, but they think he is a ghost – he has to prove to them that he isn't. Mary Magdalene initially thinks he is the gardener until he speaks her name and the two on the Emmaus Road believe he is a stranger until he reveals himself in the breaking of bread. When the disciples are fishing and see a figure on the shore, they don't immediately recognise him as Jesus until he gives them familiar instructions.

Over the years, many suggestions have been made as to why that might be: Mary's sight blurred by tears, the setting sun in the eyes of those on the Emmaus Road, the haziness of the dawn light at the breakfast on the beach. I have never been fully satisfied by those explanations. It seems to me that Jesus' body after resurrection was not exactly as it had been before his death. He is able to come and go – one minute he is with the disciples, the next he has vanished. He appears in rooms with locked doors. Mary Magdalene is told not to hang on to him but Thomas is invited to touch the marks of his wounds.

In trying to understand and explain these mysteries, I think we miss something very important and very relevant to us. We cannot hope to meet the Risen Christ in the flesh – but we CAN meet with him nonetheless in our hearts. We cannot

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Sandhurst

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College Town, GU47 0QA

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www.camberleyanddistrict.co.uk



A donation to the church of £50 is suggested but not required.

In memori- am plaques

I am delighted to be able to tell you that **Camberley and District Funeral Directors** (Yorktown Road, College Town) are now sponsoring our memorial plaques.

Just talk to Sue Truby about the words you'd like and they will provide the plaque for free! Douglas W has been attaching them to the seats once done. Thanks Douglas!

Recycled bras

We Need YOUR Support!

Recycle Your Bras and help Raise money for your local counselling charity 'Connect', and the developing world

What?
Connect is a counselling service based in Camberley offering help and support to individuals, couples and families. Connect, in association with BCR Global Textiles, intend to raise funds through 'bra bank' recycling.

More information at www.connectcounselling.org and www.brcglobaltextiles.com

What?
All you need to do is pop unwanted bras into your local bra bank recycling bin. Please ensure bras are clean, wearable and in plastic bags. Your contribution will not only 'uplift' people in third world countries, but also help raise money for 'Connect', your local counselling charity.

So when support fails you, support someone else instead!!

Where?
Bra banks' located at:
BRA SHOULD BE IN REASONABLE TO GOOD CONDITION & LEFT IN A COLLECTION POINT IN THE HALL.

Connect is a counselling service based in Camberley, Surrey GU15 3JA. Tel: 01276 24211. www.connectcounselling.org. Registered Charity No: 11842852

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So when support fails you, support someone else instead. Bras should be in reasonable to good condition.

physically see him but we CAN find him revealed in others: in the 'words that make our hearts burn within us'; in the familiar yet holy gestures of eating, drinking, blessing; in the shared conversation which we call prayer – and even through the blur of our tears. Jesus draws close to the sorrowing and broken-hearted. He shares the yoke of our problem-carrying. When we are struggling, like Thomas, to see him with the eyes of faith, we only have to look around us to see him evidenced in every kind word, every unselfish or self-sacrificing action, every loving look.

At the moment, we cannot draw close for fellowship and oh, how we miss that human contact! If ever we doubted it, we have been shown how much we need one another and how we have been created for relationship. What joy we shall have, what pleasure we will take in the simplest of touches: a handshake, a hug, a kiss, a sharing of the peace.

That time **will** come again *but in the meantime*, let yours souls be touched by the love of Jesus, feel his presence as you pray, acknowledge the Creator's hand in the handiwork of nature and let the Holy Spirit come and fill your hearts as you read his word. For this Jesus whom we worship is not numbered among the dead but here with us during lockdown and out there in the world around us. He is risen! Alleluia!

With every blessing,

Sharon

Action for Children Collection Boxes



I hope you are all well and staying safe. Now is the time of year when I usually empty your Action for Children Collection Boxes but for obvious reasons this cannot happen yet. I think we will have to delay this until the lockdown is over - whenever that will be. I personally am not allowed out at all for twelve weeks which complicates things a little more.

Would you therefore please carry on collecting your loose change and I will count it all at a later date. Please take care and I will see you all later in the year. Alison Fradgley

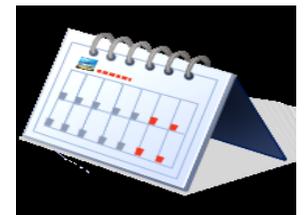
01276-36631
alison@gfradgley.com

What's on?

There will be no scheduled services or group meetings at Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church during this covid-19 pandemic.

Stay home.

Stay safe.



Easter Cross

I took the Easter Cross down yesterday evening. All but two of the daffodils in the bucket had been put on the cross. Here is the photograph. Amazing that so many people had bothered to stop and read the message, and put a daffodil on the cross.

I hope you all had a peaceful and blessed Easter.

Best wishes

Keg



Julia's shortbread recipe!



Ingredients
4oz butter
2oz caster sugar
6oz self raising flour.

Method
Preheat the oven to 180 (160 fan)
Melt the butter in a saucepan and then stir in the sugar and flour.
Tip the mixture into an 8 inch cake tin and smooth out with a knife.
Divide into 12 segments and prick around the outside with a fork.

Bake in the oven for

between 15 and 20 minutes. It should be golden brown when ready.
It will be very soft when hot so leave in the tin to cool completely.
Cut out the segments and then either scatter with a little more sugar, coat in melted chocolate or cover in glaze icing.

Ed—I couldn't find a picture with the melted chocolate on top—but that's my favourite!

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance. Hence: a thresh hold. (Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over they would hang up their bacon, to show off.

It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "Bring home the bacon."

They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around talking and "chew the fat".

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf,

The family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus someone could be, "Saved by the Bell" or was considered a "Dead Ringer" And that's the truth.

Now, whoever said history was boring! So, get out there and educate someone! Share these facts with a friend, like I just did!

Meg—one of Sue's hand-bell ringing friends.

So I told my girlfriend I had a job in a bowling alley. She said "Tenpin?" I said, "No, it's a permanent job."

So I told my mum that I'd opened a theatre. She said, "Are you having me on?" I said, "Well I'll give you an audition, but I'm not promising you anything."

So this cowboy walks in to a German car showroom and he says "Audi!"

So I fancied a game of darts with my mate. He said, "Nearest the bull goes first" He went "Baah" and I went "Moo" He said "You're closest"

Tony Buglass on UK Methodists, Facebook

History...

There is an old Hotel/Pub in Marble Arch, London, which used to have some gallows adjacent to it. Prisoners were taken to the gallows (after a fair trial of course) to be hanged. The horse-drawn dray, carting the prisoner, was accompanied by an armed guard, who would stop the dray outside the pub and ask the prisoner if he would Like "ONE LAST DRINK".

If he said YES, it was referred to as ONE FOR THE ROAD.

If he declined, that prisoner was ON THE WAGON.

So, there you go ... More history.

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot and then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery.

If you had to do this to survive you were "piss poor", but worse than that were the really poor folk, who couldn't even afford to buy a pot, they "Didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June, because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June.

However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water.

The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.

Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so, all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

Introduction from Deryn

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

My name is Deryn Stewart and I will be your new Youth & Families Lay Worker, a job I am very much looking forward to starting. I first became a Christian when I was a child, and then was called to go to join a church. This was not as easy as it seemed as my family were not keen on the idea, and it meant leaving them for a while to take up God's word and thinking I would have to leave my college course too. So, I know a little about sacrifice.

I first came into contact with the Methodist church while I was at college through one of the chaplains there. I have worked extensively with children and young people, teaching and in the community as a charity worker with disadvantaged groups and individuals, and I see myself very much as a practical Christian, serving God. On a personal side, I love animals, and have had lots of cats and chickens, and now have a black Labrador named Oscar, I am also very much a nature girl, so staying in is difficult for me.

It seems to me, not insignificant, that we are called to make these large sacrifices, perhaps of our lives, during Lent, and that we walk our Lenten path, hand in hand with our suffering Lord. He was abandoned, left by his disciples, alone, with none but God, and that is how it is with many of us, especially if you live on your own, today. It is not any easier if you are young and are used to a large group of friends around you. It also strikes me that this illness strikes both the rich and the poor, where ever you are. For many of us, our Lent will have been a protracted one. Be assured Jesus walks hand in hand with us in these times. I have been taking inspiration from the nature I see around me, the blossoms, the birds and the flowers. I look at nature flourishing and renewing all around me.

For me the psalms are a great source of inspiration and I pray these each day as part of my daily prayers. The psalmists were often in exile, away from the Temple and their places of worship, they had famine and illness, and death to contend with. They were often struggling with their faith, as everything they knew had been taken from them. So this is where I have taken my inspiration for a prayer for you from:

*"A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me,
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit."* Psalm 51: 10 - 11

"Lord be with us all, our families and our friends. Strengthen us and give us your Holy Spirit and the things we need today. Let us not worry about tomorrow, let us pray for those in need, and all our health workers, shop workers, refuse workers and key workers working so hard for us. We pray for a new creation, that your Spirit will come into the world, that it will be made anew, that this time of disease will pass, and all things will be renewed by your Spirit, and the world will be a new and better place, as good comes out of evil.

Walk with us Lord this day. Let us stay faithful to your Spirit, Lord." Amen

Deryn Stewart
Your friend in Christ, united in prayer.

Inspire and Scripture Union online

Scripture Union has a good new resource called INspire. It can be accessed by teenagers (and others of course) directly through their website, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube playlist. It helps teenagers engage with the Scriptures and face their current situation.
Deryn Stewart

The links are:

Scripture Union itself: <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/inspire>
FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/inspireScriptureUnion/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/su.inspire/?hl=en>
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqzeYen_G6NFIffzIgaE6Q

Ed: Here is a posting from a few days ago on Instagram. I don't know about it being for teenagers—I'm quite happy to have a go at eating a crème egg without using my hands!



The image shows an Instagram post from the account 'su.inspire'. The main content is a video thumbnail showing a man and a woman sitting at a table. The table is covered with various Easter chocolates, including Cadbury Orange, Dairy Milk, and Mini Eggs. The woman is looking at the man, who is looking at the chocolates. The video has 17 views and was posted 4 days ago. The caption reads: 'Can you eat a creme egg without your hands? In this INspire video, Hannah gives Adam an eggcellent challenge to complete. She also challenges us all to think about how we can show kindness to others during this difficult time. #Easter #easteregg #chocolate #lockdown #SULockdown #the95'. The post also has a 'Post' button and a comment input field.

Late Arrivals at the Vicars' Ball

Willie Rushton: "The Collar family, and their son, Doug"
Graeme Garden: "The Right Honourable Charles Ismay-Shepherd, & his father, the Lord Ismay-Shepherd"
Barry Cryer: "It's cabaret time - a parade of knickerless parsons. There are so many of them in a line, they'll get a queue rate. Luckily we have a rev counter!"
Barry Cryer: "Here's Spike Milligan in his Goon persona, representing smooth slip-on Y-fronts - Eccles Easy Elastica!"
Willie Rushton: "Mr & Mrs Nod, and their son, Si"
Tim Brooke-Taylor: "Be Christian, and try not to laugh at the entrance of J-J-J-Justin Pediment"
Tim Brooke-Taylor: "A strange couple from the church - a beadle & an abbot - they've formed an unholy alliance to produce Beadles Abbot"
Graeme Garden: "Mr & Mrs Meek, and their saintly son, blessed Arthur Meek"
Tim Brooke-Taylor: "Jenny Flect, Di O'Cese, and Ann Glicanchurch"
Graeme Garden: "Mr & Mrs Ashun-of-the-Magi, and their son, Theodore Ashun-of-the-Magi"
Barry Cryer: "Mr & Mrs Rendeth-Theleson, and their son, Andy"
Graeme Garden: "Mr & Mrs Ment, & their newt, Esther Ment"

And

[Peter Smith](#) And here come Mr and Mrs Le hem, and their daughter Beth.
[Mike Joyce](#) We welcome Mr and Mrs Con Jestion and their daughters Di and Indi

Starlings

We're starlings, the misses, meself and the boys,
We don't go round hoppin', we walks.
We don't go in for this singing all day,
And twittering about, we just squawks.
We don't go in for these fashionable clothes,
Like old Missel Thrush, and his spots,
Me breast isn't red, there's no crest on me head,
We've got sort of, hardwearing...dots.
We starlings, the misses, meself and the boys,
We'll eat anything that's about,
Well anything but that old half coconut,
I can't hold it still. I falls out.
What we'd rather do, is wait here for you,
To put out some bread for the tits,
And then when we're certain, you're there by the curtain,
We flocks down and tears it to bits.
But we starlings, the misses, meself and the boys,
We reckon that we're being got at,
You think for two minutes, them finches and linnets,
You never sees THEM being shot at.
So the next time you comes out to sprinkle the crumbs out,
And there's starlings there, making a noise,
Don't you be so quick to heave half a brick,
It's the misses, meself and the boys!
Pam Ayres

And now for the entertainment part of the newsletter :-)



Anyone want to buy 100 Scotch Eggs and 150 bite size sausage rolls?
I misread the headlines and thought everyone was picnic buying



... and here we see a rare image of a mother wrench lovingly feeding her new hatchlings.

Roger Lorette

Written by C.S. Lewis in 1942 in response to the effects of WW II....

C.S. Lewis 1942

Satan: "I will cause anxiety, fear and panic. I will shutdown business, schools, places of worship and sports events. I will cause economic turmoil".

Jesus: "I will bring together neighbours, restore the family unit, I will bring dinner back to the kitchen table. I will help people slow down their lives and appreciate what really matters. I will teach my children to rely on me and not the world. I will teach my children to trust me and not their money and material resources."



Methodist Church

2 hrs · 🌐

If you're going out to buy your essentials today, make sure you smile at the person serving you; as someone once said, 'smiling is free therapy' #LoveYourNeighbour



If you're on Facebook—please do 'like' and follow the Methodist Church's page. There is also an unofficial group on Facebook called UK Methodists that is worth 'liking' and following.

Newsletter and Website

newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Contributions for the **June** Newsletter (paper version available on Sunday 31st May) or website should be with Sue Truby by **Wednesday May 20th**

Contributions should either be:
Handed to Sue at Church,
Emailed to: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
Or posted to 58 Crowthorne Road, Sandhurst GU47 9EP (01252 879236)

Crowthorne Foodbank



I have done a bit of research with regard to the Crowthorne and Sandhurst Food Bank. Firstly—there are two places where people can donate—Tesco at The Meadows with a box near the exit, and in Crowthorne at the Co-op store. During opening hours Secondly— at present they need: Tinned sponge puddings, tinned potatoes and tinned vegetables. Also kitchen rolls, kitchen sponges, bleach, anti bacterial spray, Nappies size 5 and 6, soap and laundry tablets. They have plenty of baked beans, soup, breakfast cereal, peanut butter and pasta so please do NOT provide these.

Thanks
Heather

Contributions

I just want to say thanks very much to everyone who has provided contributions for this newsletter—some inspirational, some practical—and (coming up in the next few pages) some entertaining.

Keep them coming for the June edition please!
Sue



The allotment

Following the lock down, I have come across more articles, ideas and suggestions on what to grow in gardens and allotments than I have read over the previous year. So I have decided to add my own thoughts to the already voluminous pile.

Although I have only recently restarted working an allotment, many of the gardening skills translate across the gardening spectrum. As many of you will know, we have come to the main time of year for planting seeds and, in some cases, young plants for a hoped-for, productive harvest later in the year. I have just put in carrot, parsnip and beetroot seeds on the poor soil section of the site. These root crops do not want any feed and thrive on neglected soil. The main problem is the carrot fly which comes along later in the year and flies low to the ground so, if possible, try to put up a low barrier or plant other more pungent plants near by, such as onions, to disguise the carrot smell. It is important to have plenty of patience when waiting for parsnip seeds to germinate, otherwise you may decide they are not going to appear even when they are still at the germination stage. Another crop to get started are leeks. These will need to be moved on later once they have got to a suitable size for transplanting later in the season. These will need to grow-on over the winter and are a useful winter crop when there is little else available to harvest. Also another delicious crop is fresh peas which can be planted as soon as possible in drills two or three seeds wide to help support one another when they grow up. Another quick and easy crop to grow are lettuce and radishes. You do not want to put too many seeds each time you plant them. And a small number of successive sowings, at say two weeks apart, are far more useful for a good summer cropping. For a number of crops it is still too early to put seeds into the ground with the threat of frosts possible until the end of May. These are the more tender crops such as sweet corn, runner and French beans. However there is no harm in putting a small number indoors for an early crop, hardening them off later and taking a chance to get an early crop from these plants.

If you have not done this before it is a good chance to try grow vegetables on a small scale, with time to experiment and watch them grow. Then the taste of truly fresh vegetables with a flavour not matched before, will make you want to continue to taste again.

Happy and productive gardening
Heather



Derek North put this in his online service you may already have seen it. But what a lovely blessing for all of us at this unusual time in all our lives.

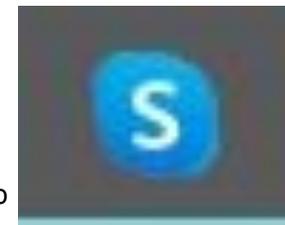
Love from Frank & Dorothy

(AS USED IN ROTORUA, NEW ZEALAND)

May the Lord walk beside you to comfort you
May the Lord walk above you to watch over you
May the Lord walk behind you to keep you safe
May the Lord walk before you to show you the way
Amen, Hosanna and Amen

Keeping in touch

Yes I know we can just pick up the phone (and I hope we will), but wouldn't it be better if we could each see each others' faces?



If you have a computer or a smart phone, you might like to try Skype. This is a free piece of software. It works on any smartphone/computer, and allows you to see as well as hear the person or people at the other end. There are of course alternatives such as Facebook Messenger and Facetime among others.

If you would like to know more, just get in touch and I (or someone else from the congregation) will help you get it up and running.

I really do recommend it.

Sue

Gardening

An interesting quote that Heather came across whilst reading one of many articles on gardening. It also applies to the Covid 19 pandemic. "It never stands still and is always surprising".

All Night Café needs

The **all night café** on the A30 is in need of:
Roll mats, sleeping bags, new men's socks, new men's pants/boxers/trunks and any full size toiletries

The **Whitechapel Mission** is in need of:
Individual size toiletries (such as provided in hotels).

Please bring in when the lockdown is over and give to Keg

An experience of Easter

I had two young children and my husband was away working long term in Suffolk. As I was on my own at Easter, I went to stay in an hour away in north London in a bungalow in the grounds of some ministers I knew from when I was at college.

The children enjoyed playing in the local grounds of a former stately home, and seeing my old friends. I had packed the car to go back, taking the children to toilet before the long trip. I washed my hands, and with car keys in my hand inadvertently left my handbag on the toilet floor.

You can imagine my horror when I arrived home that Easter at night, with only keys, no money, no cards, and no cheque book. It was a bank holiday weekend so I couldn't go the building society either. At that point my house key was still with my car keys!

I phoned late at night, and fortunately received a reply. The minister went to look for the handbag, found it intact, things go missing from a north London church! I said I would get it in the morning.

This left me with a problem, two young children on another long trip, no money or cards and no petrol in the tank. My neighbours were as poor as I was, and I thought if I went round the lot, I would be lucky if I raised enough to get me to London and back.

At about midnight, I had a surprise phone call! A young trainee minister from the parish was at the beginning of my housing estate close in his car, with my handbag! He was lost and didn't know the way in, there were multiple turnings, and no Satnav then. I said I would run out to meet him. So, leaving the children asleep, I ran out into the night to find him.

I didn't know his car, but there was one parked, engine running in the entrance to close. I cautiously peered in, I didn't recognise the guy driving at all, the young guy on the other side was dressed in hippy clothes. I failed to recognise him and started to sprint away full speed. I had run about 10 feet when the guy on the passenger seat, got out of the car and suddenly hailed me loudly.

"DERYN!" He called. "It's me Anthony! With your bag."

Sure, enough it was Anthony, I hadn't recognised him in my panic, even though I had known him for three years, I had only seen him in cleric garb before. It was only when he spoke, I recognised him! He had come with his friend all the way in the dark to save my young family!

That was when the reading in the gospel came to mind.

When Mary Magdalene in the garden after the resurrection sees Jesus alive, she doesn't recognise him and runs away, much like I had! It was only his voice that she recognised in her panic to start with. John Chapter 20 and Luke Chapter 24. Of course, after that I showed Anthony and his friend to my house, and we had a midnight snack, before they departed all the way back to London. I was, of course, overwhelmed and over joined at Anthony and his friend's kindness, and also the senior minister who I knew had sent them.

It struck me that had parallels too, with God sending the two angels to the tomb, and to the women.

But the experience didn't end there. I now acquaint this with a renewed vision and wisdom and understanding of the Resurrection experience. It has so enriched my understanding of the Resurrection and the women's experience, for ever. I've also been lucky enough to have another experience of a magnitude like this at Christmas. Both times, in adversity, God showed me something truly remarkable. They spoke truly of his great love for us.

Deryn Stewart Youth and Children's Worker.

POEMS for SPRINGTIME

For my friends at 'Sandhurst and Yateley'
Most of whom I've not seen lately
Others do weekly keep in touch
In my self-isolation, it means SO MUCH

So I've been asked to write a poem
While I'm stuck indoors, inside my home!

Will you stay in tune
For these three months of Spring
Through April and May till early June
Try daily to sing!

Go about under the trees
While the sun shines, find shade
Or when it is so cold as to freeze
Still praise God who has made
All the creatures and so many flowers
In their beauty and design.
Yes, let's sing for several hours
Of God's goodness so divine.

April's opening buds declare
Spring decides which clothes to wear
Whether for rain or drizzle
Neither would rain or frizzle
While we welcome the sunshine fair!

At Easter, with Resurrection joy after grief
Buds echoing, burst into new leaf;
Cross of Jesus, empty now
As disciples we in worship bow;
Like Mary, we can hear him say:
"I am the Life, the Truth and the Way"!

John Rolls (alias Jonquil)
April 2020

