

# CHRIST CHURCH IN APRIL

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4 APRIL 2020



**This is from a teacher in China reflecting on lock down.**

We are just finishing our 7th week of E-Learning, seven weeks of being mainly housebound and seven weeks of uncertainty. We are healthy, we are happy, and we are humbled.

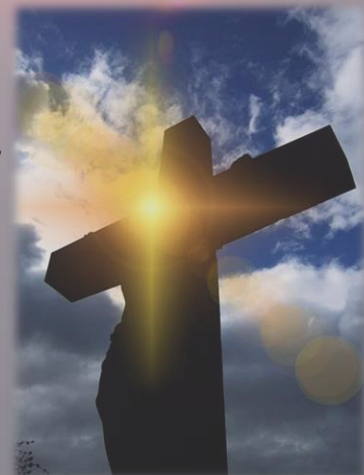
We are allowed to move around freely now with a green QR code that we show when we get our temperature taken. You get your temperature taken everywhere, and it's just become part of the routine. Most restaurants and shopping centres are now open, and life is coming back to our city.

As we watch the rest of the world begin their time inside; here are some of my reflections on the last seven weeks:

1. Accept that you have no control over the situation. Let go of any thoughts of trying to plan too much for the next month or two. Things change so fast. Don't be angry and annoyed at the system. Anxiety goes down, and you make the best of the situation - whatever that might be for you. Accept that this is what it is and things will get easier.
2. Try not to listen to/read/watch too much media. It WILL drive you crazy. There is a thing as too much!
3. The sense of community I have felt during this time is incredible. I could choose who I wanted to spend my energy on - who I wanted to call, message and connect with and found the quality of my relationships has improved.
4. Appreciate this enforced downtime. When do you ever have time like this? I will miss it when we go back to the fast-paced speed of the 'real world'.
5. Time goes fast. I still haven't picked up the ukulele I planned to learn, and there are box set TV shows I haven't watched yet.
6. As a teacher, the relationships I have built with my students have only continued to grow. I have loved seeing how independent they are; filming themselves to respond to tasks while also learning essential life skills such as balance, risk-taking and problem-solving, that even we as adults are still learning.
7. You learn to appreciate the little things; sunshine through the window, flowers blossoming and being able to enjoy a coffee in a cafe.

***To those just beginning this journey, you will get through it.  
Listen to what you are told, follow the rules and look out for each other.  
There is light at the end of the tunnel. Xx"***

***Thanks to Sue Orton who gave thanks to Lara Bundock,  
for passing this ray of hope on, shared by Elliott***



My apologies to all those who are not on the internet, who will have to wait until we emerge from isolation before they can read this, and I suspect a few more magazines. They will be waiting for them as I will print them all off as soon as I can get back to the office, hopefully after the 12 weeks have passed.

I struggled to find an appropriate cover for this month. Normally, I look for an inspiring image of our symbol of hope and of faith, **The Cross**. It is there, as we know Christ Himself is. We put our trust in him, to help us through, whatever the outcome. However, the message I printed on the front was sent by Elliott, who found this on a social media group he belongs to, the Worthing Coronavirus (Covid 19) Support Network, started by someone in Worthing.

A new member, Sue Orton, discovered and contributed the piece. Something I feel we all needed to hear. I hope you agree.

Our sincere thanks to them I hope they will excuse me using it, but I imagine it is meant to be shared.

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# Words of prayer for Lent and Easter in April



**O Lord my God**, you are my refuge and my strength. You are my ever-present help in times of trouble. When it seems like my world is crumbling around me and I am thrown around by the storms of my life, take away my fear. When I am weak, you are my strength. **Amen**

**Dear Lord Jesus**, let your light expose the cause of my hardships and give me the wisdom to know what to do. Give me a persevering heart so I will wait with patience as you work in my circumstances. Help me keep my mind focused on the glory that you will reveal when these trials are over. In Jesus' name I pray. **Amen**

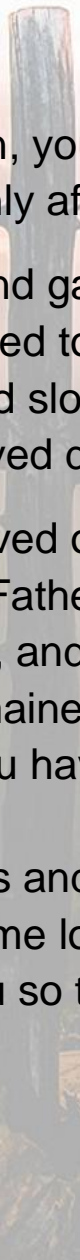
**Dear Lord Jesus,**

By your Passion and Resurrection, you brought life to the world, but the glory of the Resurrection came only after the sufferings of the Passion.

You laid down your life willingly and gave up everything for us. Your body was broken and fastened to a Cross, your clothing became the prize of soldiers, your blood ebbed slowly but surely away, and your Mother was entrusted to the beloved disciple.

Stretched out on the Cross, deprived of all earthly possessions and human aid, you cried out to your Father that the end had come. You had accomplished the work given you, and you committed into His hands, as a perfect gift, the little life that remained to you. Lord, teach me to accept all afflictions after the example you have given.

Let me place my life in your hands and my weakness at your Cross, take hold of me with your love, that same love that knows no limits, and let me offer myself to the Father with you so that I may rise with you to eternal life. **Amen**



## **COULD WE MAKE MORE OF THE PSALMS?**

When was the last time that you attended church on a Sunday, and the sermon was preached on a Psalm? If you had asked me that question a couple of months ago, my answer would have been that it was so long ago that I had forgotten. However, I then heard an inspiring sermon based on the set psalm for the day – Psalm 16 – and that led me to think that modern worship may underuse the rich resources of the Psalter.

In the days of the Book of Common Prayer, there was a set pattern for working systematically through the psalms, and the chanting of psalms by the congregation was an integral part of most services. But although the Common Worship Lectionary prescribes a psalm for each Sunday service, many churches nowadays do not include it. Where a psalm is included, a responsorial form is nowadays much more common. For me, this form suffers from a disadvantage in that the congregation tends to focus on the response (and when they are expected to come in with it) rather than on the words of the psalm itself. Personally, I prefer it when a leader and the congregation recite alternate verses, but this requires the text of the psalm to be printed on the service sheet or shown on a screen.

The role of the psalms may have declined in our services, but they nevertheless continue to exercise a significant influence on our worship in the background. A quick glimpse at the Scriptural Index of any hymn book reveals just how many of the hymns include elements reflecting, or inspired by, passages from the Psalter. A few of these are very widely known, such as the perennial funeral favourite based on psalm 23, The Lord's my shepherd. But there are many others: one of my own favourites is Tim Dudley-Smith's atmospheric "I lift my eyes to the quiet hills", based on psalm 121.

However, we do not need to confine the psalms solely to our formal worship. Psalms can provide a source of comfort and inspiration to anybody who reads them, as I frequently do. They have been described as "the poetry of prayer and praise ... the attraction and power of the psalms lies in imagery and language".

It must be said, though, that some of the ancient imagery may be alien to modern ears, but what lies behind the psalms is an enduring thread of

human interaction with God over the centuries. In this interaction, all human concerns can be found, including profound expressions of love for God; feelings of human failure and inadequacy before God; and even human frustrations with God. Whatever our hopes or concerns, we can take comfort from knowing that others of like mind have gone before us, and found comfort in the psalms.

And if you would like to read the words of a psalmist confident in their God, look no further than Psalm 16.

*Christopher Ward*

**Just a prayer**



Just a little word of kindness,  
just a little word of love,

Just a little smile of tenderness  
are all blessings from above.

Just a little thought of comfort,  
just a token that you care,

Just a gesture of sympathy  
may be answer to a prayer.

Just a little smile of happiness  
and a little song of peace,

Just a word of praise at eventide  
will give the soul release.

For the little bit of kindness  
and the little bit of care

The little bit of tenderness  
are the essence of a prayer.



*With thanks to Jenny Chandler's niece's mother-in-law!*





.... More snippets from Barbara H.....

'You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present  
by worrying about the future'.

*Isak Dinesen*

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where  
you are and change the ending.

*C.S. LEWIS*

Blessed are those that can give without remembering and receive  
without forgetting

*Elizabeth Bibesco, Poet [1897-1945]*

### APRIL IN HISTORY

1742 - Handel's Messiah has its premier performance in Dublin

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1912 - Titanic set sail on 10th. The 'unsinkable' ship, sank six days later

\*\*\*\*\*

1955 - Albert Einstein dies on the 18th

\*\*\*\*\*

1968 - The film Lawrence of Arabia, starring Peter O'Toole wins seven Oscars

\*\*\*\*\*

1997 - Tiger Woods wins The US Masters tournament at the age of 21

### **What am I?**

What lies on its back six feet in the air?

ANS: A dead fly



I have seas without water, forests without wood, deserts without sand, houses  
without bricks, pubs without beer?

ANS: A map

# Poet's Corner

## That Final Meal!

Around the table thirteen sat,  
An eve'ning repast to enjoy,  
Few would anticipate combat,  
Or sterling courage to employ.

Behind the Sire a woman stood,  
Around the table thirteen sat,  
His chosen for his greater good,  
A bond they had themselves begat.

As though involved in earnest spat,  
In animated converse leaned,  
Around the table thirteen sat,  
The one who had betrayal convened.

Our world good reason does confound,  
Unhap'ly in close kinships that,  
Betrayed and Denier found,  
Around the table thirteen sat.

*©Elliott Allison.*

## The Cross!

Undeserved, unreserved,  
Unearned, unasked, unlocked;  
Unabating, unabridged,  
Unclogged, unflawed, unstopped -  
Love Divine Unleashed!

*© Elliott Allison.*



## **KNIT 'N NATTER GROUP NEWS**

Just an update on our activities over the recent months! Alongside our busy home knitters, we have enjoyed producing quite a wide variety of articles.

Before Christmas, we had great fun knitting seasonal decorations for our Knit 'n Natter Christmas Tree. We shared a poignant moment as we arranged the Nativity scene so lovingly made by dear Mary Anderson, our most prolific needlewoman, who sadly passed away early last year.

We also managed to complete another splendid prayer shawl, (with help from many, including 'learners' see below!) myriad hats for new-borns at Worthing Hospital, kindly delivered (the hats, not the new-borns!) by Connie Apps. We have also produced several boxes of woolly hats, scarves and mittens for the Mission to Seafarers and countless blanket squares.

However, the most unusual and mystifying request was from David, our Vicar, who asked us to make as many pom-poms as we could for Mothering Sunday. We presented him with well over 100 and at the time of writing, his plans will remain a mystery, until we meet again, and when we do.....

We will continue to meet every Thursday afternoon in the Church from 2.30pm until about 4pm bringing along our knitting, stitching and crocheting; and enjoy a lovely time of fun, fellowship and conversation (no gossip, I can assure you!). We look forward to welcoming all new-comers – you don't need to be experts – and Lorraine and Ken will be delighted to provide you with sustenance during the afternoon.

*Dorothy and  
the Knit 'n Natterers*

*Picture is of Steve, assisted  
by Dorothy, contributing to  
one of our prayer shawls,  
donated to church friends  
and family members to let  
them know we care.*



*The editors would like to thank John Collins, Christ Church Organist for the many contributions he makes to our magazines each month. Here, John writes of the many anniversaries of composers of organ music...*

In 2020 there are several composers of organ music whose anniversaries can be commemorated, albeit some of the dates are not known for certain; most will not be well known to the majority of readers but their music is still worth playing today

**Sperindio Bertoldo ca 1530-70** Organist in Venice, two books of pieces were published there including two Toccatas (the first of the genre published in Italy) three Ricercars and nine Canzoni Francese.

**Carolus Luyt(h)on ca 1557-1620** Born in Antwerp, Luython become court organist to Emperor Rudolf II, first in Vienna, then in Prague where he died. Nine keyboard works have survived including three Fantasias, a Ricercar, three Canzonas and a Fuga Suavissima.

**Giovanni Paolo Cima ca 1570-1622** Organist in Milan, he published church and instrumental music including *Partito de Ricercari & Canzoni alla Francese* for keyboard in 1606, which includes seven Ricercars, 2 Fantasias, 14 Canzonas (the last one being by his son Andrea)

**Pieter Cornet ca 1570-1633** Organist of Brussels, a small number of pieces have survived in manuscript sources, including eight Fantasias, a Toccata, settings of the Salve Regina, Tantum Ergo Te Deum and Regina Caeli and two Courantes.

**Fabrizio Fontana ca 1620-95** Born in Turin he became organist in Rome and published a book of 12 Ricercars in score in 1677; probably one of the last such publications for keyboard, they are written in an archaic style.

**Johann Speth 1664-ca 1720** Born in Speinshart he spent most of his life in Augsburg. In 1693 he published *Ars Magna Consoni et Dissoni* which contains ten Toccatas, a set of Preludium, five Verses and a Finale on each of the eight Tones, and three Arias with variations.

**Andrea Armsdorf 1670-99** Born in Mühlisdorff he became organist in Erfurt. 29 Chorale Preludes and one Fuga survive in various manuscripts.

**Anton Estendorffer 1670-1711** Organist at Stift Reichersberg, he left some 20 sets of variations in manuscript, including seven Arias, five Ciacconas, four Galliards (one subtitled Natalizantis), and four Cappricios (sic).

**José de Torres y Martínez Bravo ca. 1670-1738** There has been disagreement amongst scholars whether the composer of the 10 keyboard works - five Partidos (one incomplete), a Batalla, a Fuga and three Obras - in a manuscript in Mexico cathedral archives is the above named who was Maestro of the Capilla Real in Madrid or by José de Torres y Vergara, a contemporary native Mexican composer.

**Johann Casper Ferdinand Fischer ca 1670-1746** He became Kapellmeister to Ludwig Wilhelm of Baden and published sacred and orchestral music as well as four volumes of keyboard music. The *Ariadne Musica* of 1702/15 contains 20 short Preludes and Fugues in different keys plus five Ricercars on seasonal hymns. A collection of an extended Praeludium, six Fugas and a short Finale on each of the eight tones was published as *Blumen-Strauss* ca. 1732.

**Gottlieb Muffat 1690-1770** He was organist in Vienna and left a large corpus of keyboard music. The *72 Versetl samt 12 Toccaten* (A Toccata and six versets on each of the 12 Tones) were published in 1726 and many pieces remain in manuscript including Toccatinas, Preludes, Caprices, two Missas in F and C. *32 Ricercars*, *19 Canzonas* and *24 Toccatas and Capricci* are also preserved in MS.

**Francesc Mariner 1720-89** Organist of Barcelona cathedral, he left 11 Tocatas, two Sonatas, an Adagio, six Pastorellas and two Juguetes as well as some pieces for the Trumpet stops, some large-scale Obras and Tientos and several sets of Versos.

**Paolo Altieri 1745-1820** from Sicily left 31 Sonate Brevi, three Sonatas, four Sonatinas, four Marce, a March, a Zampogna and three Pastorales for the organ.

**Theodor Grünberger 1756-1820** Organist in Augustinian monastery and later at the Electoral school, both in Munich, he published six organ masses and some Pastorales and was dismissed for inappropriate behaviour!!



## ***Aphorisms from Elliott***

*[Aphorism - a pithy observation which contains a general truth] ... well I didn't know!*

Let disappointment be the kindling  
that fuels the smouldering embers of Hope!

\*\*

Prayer is a loving heart saying to a suffering soul, 'I Care!'

\*\*

You are valuable because you exist; not because of what you do,  
or what you have done, but simply because YOU are YOU.

\*\*

Let disappointments not be Stumbling Blocks  
but Stepping Stones on our journey through Life.

\*\*

*Thank you, Elliott!*

John Nobbs writes....

C T Studd wrote a poem and below is just one verse that speaks volumes:

'Give me Father, a purpose deep,  
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;  
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,  
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;  
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.'

*JC writes 'Here's a short one from Giorgia who lives in a beautiful area of Florianópolis on the south coast of Brazil'*

### ***Definition of a shin:***

that part of the body that manages to find furniture in the dark!

*And a joke from an Australian friend!*

Yesterday I purchased a world map, gave my wife a dart and said to her 'throw this and wherever it lands I'm taking you for a holiday'.

Turns out we're spending three weeks behind the fridge!

## Thoughts on *Haggai 2: 1 – 9 and John 2: 18-22*

From The Revd Roger Walker

Both these readings focus on the idea of a temple – specifically God’s temple at Jerusalem – the centre of Jewish worship. Haggai, in our first reading, is encouraging those who are rebuilding God’s temple after the Jews had returned from their 70 year exile in Babylon, and there was a similar rebuilding going on at the time of Jesus. It was nearly finished but had taken 46 years.

Now the concept of a temple is to provide a dwelling place for God – that is why there could be only one temple, in Jerusalem, the dwelling place of the one God – and as Haggai speaks of it, it must be as magnificent as they can make it. But Jesus has a totally different concept of a temple. He is not impressed by the huge and wonderful building- rather he speaks quite simply of the temple of his body. If you think about it, this was a perfect description, for in Jesus, God dwelled – he was the divine son of God - one of the divine facets of that great mystery – the Holy Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Haggai prophesied that the desire of all nations, that is Jesus, will come – that when he does God will fill this house, the Temple, with his glory. It did not happen quite as Haggai visualized, but Jesus did come to the Temple and was the focus of all who were there as he took control; drove out the money changers, those



selling animals and birds for sacrifice, crying out ‘My father’s house is a house of prayer and you have made it a den of thieves’.

Two wonderful pictures there – Jesus purifying the earthly temple of God – but far more importantly – being himself the temple, the dwelling place of God. This is not as removed from us as it seems – for we are also called to the temples – dwelling places; for twice in his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul writes of this in Chapter 3, verse 16, he says ‘Do you not know that you are God’s temple and God’s spirit lives in you? God’s temple is sacred and you are that temple; and again Chapter 6, verse 19, he tells them – ‘Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you?’. It seems that as with lots of things, the Corinthians were slow to cotton-on to this – for in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 6, verse 16, St. Paul forcefully reiterates ‘We are the temple of the living God’.

Now how does all this relate to us? Well, let’s start as Haggai and Jesus did with a physical temple built with human hands. We saw how the Jews had just the one temple in Jerusalem and we have nothing that we can directly compare with it, nowhere that we say, this is the dwelling place of God. But around the world there are thousands and thousands of Church buildings, not just the Christian church in which we gather. We often refer to our building as God’s house – it does not mean that we think he dwells here, rather that this building does not belong to us, we just pay the cost of keeping it standing. Rather it belongs to God and was built as somewhere to remind us of God’s universal presence with us and as somewhere for Christians to come to praise his holy name.

So God is here, just as he is everywhere and especially so when we are worshipping him, for Jesus promised that ‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst’. So, we know Jesus’s presence with us – but St. Paul was writing about something much more than this, not related to buildings or gathering of Christians. He looked at his Christian converts individually and told them your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit – for as he said ‘God’s spirit lives in you’. Do we feel that? Do we feel that God’s Holy Spirit is within us, that we are his dwelling place?

This can be quite difficult at times amid all the hustle and bustle of daily life, and yet if we are to lead a true Christian life, it is something that is vital; for if the Holy Spirit is within us he guides us and we also are constrained from misusing the body that is his temple. As St. Paul made very clear to the Christians at Corinth, making clear that once we have accepted Christ and asked the Holy Spirit to come into us, that our bodies are no longer ours to do with as we wish, for Jesus has bought us at the price of his death upon the cross.



Therefore, writes Paul, honour God with your body. There are so many things that our body can do that will dishonour God, so many things that will cause those around us to call us hypocrites; but if we are consciously aware that our bodies are the dwelling place - the temple - of the Holy Spirit, then we are much less likely to misuse them.

So when we gather in the house that God owns – with his Holy Spirit dwelling within us, we worship him as our Lord and Saviour, knowing his closeness to us. The challenge comes when we walk out of the doors, out into all the temptations of the world, that is when we must consciously recall that we are temples, dwelling places of the Holy Spirit and truly seek his help and strengthening power so that we do indeed honour God with our bodies.

*John C's friend Olga sent him her bird paintings and said she would be delighted if we would like to include them in our magazine*

*– many thanks Olga!*



GREAT TIT



HUMMING BIRD



BLUE JAY

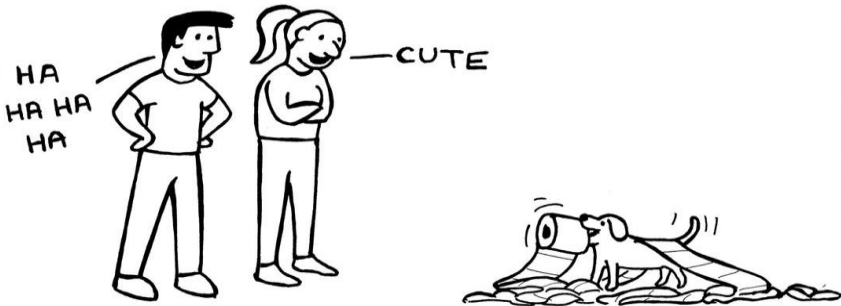
To raise a laugh during these times!!

SENDING YOU  
A SOCIALLY-  
DISTANCED HUG



THE NEW PUPPY...

JANUARY



MARCH



FACEBOOK.COM/OFF THE LEASH DAILY DOG CARTOONS

RUPERT FAWCETT

The new 2020 Olympics logo has been released!



For social distancing reasons I will henceforth be wearing hoop skirts

