CHRIST CHURCH. WOODFORD PARISH MAGAZINE



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www.christchurchwoodford.org for more information on our church and its activities as well as a chance to hear our Sunday sermons and read this magazine online.

Parish Magazine June / July 2020

Christ Church, Woodford

Seeking to know Christ better and to make Christ better known.

Sunday Services will resume as soon as we can.

9.00am Traditional Holy Communion Service

With prayer, Bible-readings and a talk.

10.15am Family Service

A more modern service with a range of music (led by our choir) and including prayers, Bible-readings and a talk. We have a regular Sunday School and Crèche facilities. The service finishes with tea and coffee served in our Church Hall. On the first Sunday of the month the service includes Family Communion.

Regular Activities will resume as soon as we can.

See our bi-monthly magazine (which comes free to every house in the Parish) and our website for more details, but here's a selection...

Good Book Groups – we meet monthly in a relaxed, friendly environment to look at what the Bible teaches us

Prayer Meetings — monthly informal times of prayer together **Church Lunches** — a light lunch, a chance to meet others and chat **CAMEO** — monthly social evenings

Friendship Group – Fortnightly on Mondays 'knit (optional!) and natter'

Scrap-booking – meet new people and preserve and share memories and photographs

Festival Choir Events – special evening services of music and readings at key points in the year – keep an eye out for adverts!

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You are in our thoughts and prayers at this most difficult time.

We will be back as soon as we can.

Christ Church Parish Magazine is only available on our website during the Covid-19 crisis.

Please let your friends know we are here for them.

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Any submissions for our next edition need to be with us by no later than the 10th July. Email them to either Jean or Graham.

Please do not send them to the Vicarage

Cover Photo: "Foxgloves in Blossoms Lane" by Evelyn Frearson

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As a Church we take our legal & moral responsibilities with regard to the safeguarding of children & vulnerable adults very seriously.

If you have any concerns, there is more information available on our website.

Our Parish Safeguarding Officer is David Copner: 01625 251455. Email: copner@ntlworld.com

The Diocesan Safeguarding Officer is Pauline Butterfield: 07703 800 031



From the Vicar.....

The 'Locked Down' Apostle

The Apostle Paul was under house arrest.

We often think of Paul as the first and greatest Christian missionary, and rightly so since he, more than anyone else, started the global spread of the message about Jesus Christ.

What we often miss though is just how much of his life he actually spent in prison, on trial, or under house arrest. In other words, he frequently experienced a form of 'lockdown.'

One of the reasons he was so frequently 'locked down' was because the Roman and Jewish authorities didn't want the message he was preaching to spread.

The thinking went 'lock Paul up, and that will lock up the message.'

Amazingly, the very opposite happened. Precisely because Paul was 'locked-down' the Christian message spread further and faster.

Paul wrote this in his letter to the Christians living in the city of Philippi:

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. (Philippians 1:12-14)

Paul says that his imprisonment has caused the message about Jesus to spread upwards, and to spread outwards.

Spread upwards... whilst under house arrest, Paul was guarded by members of the Roman Army's elite 'Imperial Guard' (often called the Praetorian Guard) from whose ranks Caesar's personal body-guards were drawn. He spoke to these soldiers about Jesus – Paul's Lord and Saviour who he had dedicated his life to serving. As a result members of Rome's aristocracy and ruling classes were now learning about Jesus.

Spread outwards... if people had hoped that 'locking down' Paul would create fear amongst the Christian community, the very opposite happened. Paul writes of people 'having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment' – locking him up made them braver and more outspoken. They became 'much more bold to speak the word without fear.' As a result, the message about Jesus Christ spread further.

I find this very encouraging.

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As you can imagine, it's a very strange time to be doing my job. The Church building is locked and we can't have services. I can't meet with people to chat with them. And I can't fulfil my God-given responsibility of teaching God's truth in the normal way. And yet, that does not mean that the wonderful message about Jesus Christ is 'locked down'

In the face of many obstacles, it can still spread.

By the grace of God, we can today use the Internet, more than ever, to spread the Christian message. So, you'll find that I'm writing a Daily Devotion (sent out by email, and put on our website) and I'm recording Sunday Services on YouTube.

Now, these aren't an adequate substitute for meeting and teaching people 'face to face' but God can still use them to build us up in the faith, and to point us all to Jesus.

What's more, people can forward them on to others. And people can still speak as Christians to others, and explain that, in the darkness of this awful virus, we have eternal hope because of the Lord Jesus Christ – who He is, what He has done for us and of Heaven which He has secured for us.

You and I may be 'locked down' but the wonderful news about Jesus Christ never can be, and never will be.

And, if you look out over world history, you'll see that no global power, no empire, no ideology and no plague has ultimately silenced the Christian message. All the while Christians, with Godgiven 'fearlessness,' speak and write about Jesus, that message will never die.

So, let's pray that God would enable every Christian to speak about, write about (and that includes on 'social media') and live for Jesus Christ. He is our hope and our Saviour, and He has secured our eternal home in Heaven.

And, if you are reading this as someone who is undecided about Jesus, can I leave you with this question to think about;

iln the darkness of coronavirus and the 'lockdown' where have you placed your hope? And has that person, or group of people, or ideology, emphatically conquered death through Resurrection?

Can I challenge you to consider Jesus Christ?

May God bless you during this very painful time by drawing you close into His loving arms.

David



Welcome to our 2nd Online Parish Magazine

Well here we are, still in isolation because of our ages and our ongoing medical conditions and we are both missing the children and grandchildren.

I was recently working in the front garden and the daily procession of walkers, cyclists, runners and riders was building up in the usual way.

I noticed some people waving and others were shouting "Happy Birthday". The penny finally dropped. Judith had put a sign on our gate asking everyone to give me a wave as it was my 75th. It was warming to see so many strangers taking the trouble to make my day.

You may well have seen Margaret Holbrook's challenge in our April/ May website edition. She introduced us to Drabbles, 100 word stories, which were brought about from an idea by the Monty Python team in the 1970s. The 100 words should not include the title. As with any story each Drabble should have a beginning, a middle and an end.

Margaret suggested we might like to have a go at writing a Drabble or two ourselves. We begin them on p9. It is not too late for you to have a go and email your entries to me for next time.

Richard Cussons sends us another of his fascinating series on Great Christian Thinkers, beginning on p15.

On p18 we have reproduced an interview with the wonderful Mary Sadler. Sadly, Mary passed away recently at the age of 98.

On p21 we have the wonderful recollections of Joan Seton, beginning as a 10yr old girl living through the early years of WW11. She wrote them down in later life so today's generation would have an understanding of her childhood experiences.

We are delighted to have an article Malcolm Braddock on Hymns and Hymn Writers. On p31 he features the Rt. Revd.Timothy Dudley-Smith

Do please remember Rev David's Daily Devotions are on our website, as is his short Service each Sunday. We know how much these are enjoyed and appreciated by so many of our church family. David Jones will keep us updated with changes to restrictions and other news items via the website.

At the back of this issue there is a note from Paul Rodman and myself on the delicate subject of the pandemic and our church finances. If you feel you can help us in any way, we will be so grateful.

Please let others know that we have not gone away and that we hope to be popping through letterboxes in the not too distant future.

Take great care of yourselves and, if you can, make someone's day, whether or not it's their birthday.

Graham Meare - Editor.



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Parish Magazine June / July 2020

"Write a 100 word Drabble" - A challenge by Margaret Holbrook

A Chance Meeting

The old farmer sat in the corner of The Green Man pub, drinking his pint and watching the aircrew coming in from nearby Wratting Common airfield, home of 195 squadron. He knew some familiar faces would be missing and new faces would be there to take their places.

An officer came over to talk to the farmer about the sheepdog sitting at his feet. "She's too lazy and she's got to go" the farmer said grimly.

"I'll have her" said the officer, and so began a wonderful relationship that was to last through the war and into my early childhood.

Graham Meare

The show must go on

Arthur was giving a talk on the Colonial Wars at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

He arrived early and found the Hall open so he set up his slides and screen, got a glass of water and waited for the audience to arrive.

An old man came and sat on the back row. He assured Arthur that as it was raining so hard, nobody else would come. The show must go on.

Arthur started his presentation. At 8.30pm the old boy put his hand up.

"Aha" thought Arthur, "a question".

"Will you be long, only I'm waiting to lock up?"

Graham Meare

The great journey.

Pete had been looking forward to going to see his favourite band in London at the weekend. His pal Steve was going with him and Pete was going to drive. It would be his first long journey since passing his test.

Pete's dad told him to head towards the M6 at Knutsford and keep going past Birmingham and join up with the M1 just after Rugby. "It's a doddle, you should be there in three hours".

Pete's Mum phoned him 2 hours after they left to see how they were getting on.

"We've just stopped for lunch at Tebay Services".

Graham Meare

continued overleaf.....

continued......"Write a 100 word Drabble"

22 Angry Wasps

We hear them before we see them. The distant buzz of twenty two angry wasps. The commentator shouting excitedly over the public address system.

The ebb and flow of the circuit causes the notes to rise and fall. The crowd around us, dressed in the multicolours of their favourite cars and drivers, begin to stand. To gain their first glimpse as the noise grows, just out of sight.

The leaders appear three abreast, as they dive for the apex. Car after car rushing round the long sweep past the old pitlane entrance.

The noise of the first lap never disappoints.

Andy Brown

Favourite Things

One of my favourite things is lying in a tent whilst the rain falls on the gossamer thin material.

The down of the sleeping bag and the foam of camp mat all that separates you from the cold earth. The tent heightens senses, so the pitter patter of the gentle drizzle sounds like the incessant hammer of a tropical storm.

The smell of the earth and the coolness of the air contrasting the warmth in your cocoon.

The light gently fading as you drift away dreaming of the day just passed and the hopes that the morning will bring sunshine!

Andy Brown

The Meeting

"Thanks for coming on time. Incidentally, has anyone seen Jack?

Now, have you all had the opportunity to study the note I emailed with the Agenda? Are you saying you didn't receive the Agenda? Surely you should have it by now. I'm sure it went out to all of you last week.

Anyway, I wanted to ask you for your ideas on how we can improve communications within the Company. Come on Tony, stop texting whilst I'm talking.

Oh great, I've just remembered. I've got a meeting with the Chairman in five minutes. Good to talk. See you next Friday."

Graham Meare.

continued on Page 12.....

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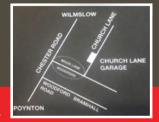
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The Debut

On a dull, damp day nervous excitement abounds in Jon's house. Picked for his cub football team he is promised that he will not, as in every match so far this year, remain on the bench throughout.

It's the last game of the season, both teams desperately want to win. Half time arrives, Jon still sitting on the bench!

The second half starts and "FOUL" comes the cry. A player lies injured.

This is Jon's moment.

Enthusiastically he chases a crossed ball. THWACK, the ball hits him in the face. Blood pours from his nose.

His football experience is over.

David Copner

Shattered Dreams

On this, the most important day of my life so far I am awake early. Satisfied that all preparations are covered, I get up and leave the house before anyone else is stirring. Barely able to contain my excitement, I hurry to meet my bridesmaid. She joins me and we journey on to meet he with whom I am to spend the rest of my life.

We are almost there when disaster strikes. My sister appears; my parents are frantic and I must return home.

I am heartbroken. Life is so unfair. Why can't a six year old get married?

Jean Copner

Something for Yourself

"Remember now, that's three lots of Fish and Chips, Fish Chips and Peas twice, Fish and Chips with Curry Sauce, Jumbo Sausage and Chips, Chips in a Bap and get something for yourself. Now off you go and come straight back "

Mary wished her mother had written it down for her. She would never remember all that lot by the time she got to the Chip Shop. It was a bus ride away.

As she sat on the Number 10 bus Mary suddenly thought "Hang on a minute, there's only the two of us, so what happened to mum's diet?"

Graham Meare





Woodford Community Council

Woodford Community Council exists to give all the residents of Woodford a voice on matters affecting our community.

For further information visit our website



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Parish Magazine June / July 2020



Continuing his mini series on great Christian Thinkers.

Part 4. Huldrych Zwingli

By Richard Cussons M.A.

Richard Cussons M.A. is a Lay reader at Christ Church Woodford, and a Lay Minister in the Methodist Church, where he is in charge of training new lay ministers in the Manchester and Stockport district. Richard is a retired teacher, where he taught Theology and Philosophy from A level & GCSE, down to year 7. He often preaches and leads services at Christ Church. Richard is married to Sue, a Psychotherapist, and they have three daughters. Richard loves the outdoors, and is a keen sea kayaker, skier, and swimmer.

In this series, we've moved from St Augustine, to Thomas Aquinas, and last time to Martin Luther, the great reformation theologian. Now you might be asking yourself, who on earth is Huldrych Zwingli? Not one of the better known people to those who don't study theology.

But he was, in fact, very important to the reformation, as he was responsible for starting it in Switzerland, and laid the ground for John Calvin. He was also independent of Martin Luther in Germany, at least to start with. This was way before good communications, and what happened in Germany would not have been common knowledge elsewhere.

Zwingli was born on New Year's day 1484, just a few weeks after Martin Luther, in the canton of St Gallen in North Eastern Switzerland. He attended the University of Vienna in 1498 at the age of 14. In 1502 he moved to the University of Basle to further his studies, becoming ordained priest in 1506 at the young age of 22.

From his studies, He saw the only way of being sure of the facts is to go back to sources, rather than reading many interpretations of the original. Thus, when it came to the study of Christianity, there was no more important resource than the Bible itself.

When it came down to which version of the Bible, Zwingli said he needed to go back to the original texts, which in the case of the New Testament, was in Greek, but the common usage was the Latin Vulgate translation, used as the official version of the Catholic Church.

There were important differences that Zwingli felt misled people: For example, the Latin Vulgate translation of Matthew 4.17 said "Do Penance, for the kingdom of God is at hand." But the Greek says: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

Penance was a church rite which had to be paid for, whereas Repentance refers to a change of heart and saying sorry to God directly.

This was becoming more important, with the invention of Gutenberg's printing press, and the first book he printed in 1455 was his famous Gutenberg Bible, which meant that Bibles could be produced much more quickly, so it was particularly important that the Bible people had access to was a scripturally correct version.

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Zwingli's big concern was with reforming the life of the medieval church and individual Christian believers. In this he differed from Luther, who placed more emphasis on reforming the doctrine of the church. In 1518, Zwingli was appointed to Minister at the Grand Minster in Zurich, and he used the opportunity to practice what he preached, by delivering a continuous course of sermons on the Gospel of Matthew, basing his sermons on the original scripture texts, not on commentaries.

For him, scripture was the means by which God was able to speak to His people, and allow them to break free from bondage and false ideas and practices. Zurich city council became anxious about his preaching, and in 1523 set up a great debate between Zwingli and the local Catholic clergy, which he won comprehensively, with his knowledge of Greek and of scripture.

Further success followed in convincing his compatriots, with similar debates taking place in other towns across Switzerland, until in 1528, he convinced the city of Berne, a major centre of political and military power, and it adopted the reformation. This was a key moment, as Berne's military support for Geneva in 1536 would prove decisive in establishing Calvin's success as a reformer, and so Calvin owes more to Zwingli than is generally realised.

One of Zwingli's most interesting contributions to Christian theology was his explanation of why Christians celebrate the death of Jesus Christ in the service of Holy Communion. The gospels tell us that at the Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples "to do this in remembrance of me," referring of course to breaking and eating bread, and drinking wine. Catholics believed in Transubstantiation, where the elements of bread and wine supernaturally turn into the actual body and blood of Christ. Based on scripture, Zwingli dismissed this as an incorrect reading of the Greek original. Zwingli uses two analogies to explain:

The first concerns a merchant who goes away on business, and leaves his ring with his wife so that she will remember him whilst he is away. The ring has strong associations and links with the merchant, and Zwingli argues that the communion service recalls the memory of Jesus and reminds us of His promise to return.

The second analogy concerns the battle of Naafels in 1388, a foundational event in the establishment of the Swiss confederation, when the individual cantons joined together under a white cross (hence the Swiss flag today) and defeated the Austrians. The white cross was a mark of loyalty to the Swiss confederation, and so Christians proclaim their loyalty to Christ by remembering the death of Jesus through baptism and Holy Communion, and the communion service reminds Christians that victory is gained through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In the same way that the battle of Naafels was the foundational event in the creation of the Swiss federation, so the death and resurrection of Jesus was the foundational event of the Christian church, central to its identity and self-understanding.

Zwingli tried to set up a network of evangelical cantons in Switzerland, but the Catholic Church objected and war followed, during which he was killed on the battlefield in Keppel in 1531, aged 47. What might have happened if he had lived, is speculation, but perhaps Calvinists would have been known as Zwingliists and his name would have been a lot better known. What is without doubt is that his work laid a foundation on which John Calvin continued to work, enabling Calvin to systematically lay down an organised body of teaching, and for the reformation to flourish....but more of that next time!

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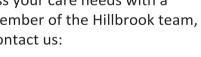
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Mary Sadler 1923-2020

We learnt earlier this month of the sad death of Mary Sadler. She died peacefully at her Care Home in Poynton in her 98th year. For many years she was a great member of our Congregation. It was always a privilege to hear Mary's Bible reading in church. She read with such clarity and quiet conviction. One of her contemporaries summed it up simply. She said. "Mary Sadler is what I call a good woman".





Pictures of Mary taken at church on the occasion of her 90th birthday

So even in these restricted times when a full funeral is impossible - we wanted to share something of Mary's long and faithful life. This is an interview from about 12 years ago.

Faithful Reflections of a Good Yorkshire Woman

An interview with Mary Sadler

Mary how has your life and faith linked together?

It all started when I was born. I was born in a holy place — at Guisborough in Yorkshire, which is where the Augustinian Priory was based. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries all the stone from the Priory was re-used in the village; the old Priory has been used as a quarry for generations. My Grandfather's house was one of the stone houses. Whether that has rubbed off on me I don't know. Both sets of my Grandparents were strong church people. And my Father took me to church as soon as I could walk far enough and I never questioned it.

My Father was a good man, because my Mother said he would give his last crust away. It's in my genes I think. He liked people and I like people. They don't have to like me, that doesn't matter. I talk to people.

On Wednesday I nearly bumped into a lady on the pavement going to Poynton. She told me she hadn't talked to anyone this week. I was the first person she had talked to. I never feel lonely... I talk to God.

continued.....

How would you describe your faith?

It's a part of me really; I can't imagine being any other way. I have always been involved with the church. I was a Sunday school teacher for 20 years, then for 8 years I was a Sunday School Superintendent. Then I was on the Children's Council at Macclesfield Deanery for 8 years. From there I was on the Deanery Synod and then I was voted onto the first Diocesan Synod. Derek, my husband said I was never in.

Was there a specific moment when you became a Christian?

I just grew into it. I can't say there was a time when it meant more. I always have loved going to church, though I did get bored when I was very little with long sermons.

What factors have contributed most to the growth of your faith?

There are people who have been very influential, like my Father and my old Head Mistress. There are also passages which mean a great deal to me. I think the Collects have influenced me quite a bit. I am particularly fond of the 4th Collect after Easter: 'Our heart may there be fixed where true joys are found'. And I love the Psalms, particularly Psalm 122.

I have never questioned my faith; even when I lost my brother during the War. My father said I am not going into mourning and he wore his brightest tie. He was heartbroken really. His faith wasn't shaken.

It has made me what I am. When I meet my Maker, I don't know whether he will agree with me. Over the years I have done a lot of voluntary work. I joined the WRVS and ran a weekly lunch club. Then when we went to Thirsk, I cooked lunches for Alzheimer sufferers, to give their carers a respite break.

What were the most influential sources of your Christian conviction?

I would start with Miss Horrocks, the Head Mistress of Stretford High School. When I was 16 in 1939 I was confirmed. The Rector who prepared us for Confirmation was a rather special man. Later when I was a Sunday School Superintendent we had a Vicar at St. Georges.

He was really a difficult man to get on with, but he did preach some very good sermons. At that time I knew all the local clergy. One time I was in hospital 5 clergy came to visit me. The girl in the next bed said "Well you must be either very good or very wicked!" There was a hymn that we used to sing at school:

'Oh brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother. Where pity dwells the love of God is there.'

I can't remember the tune. During the War our school was completely annihilated by a land mine. We were asked to give back any text books and I am afraid the hymn book went back too.

continued.....

What would you say about prayer?

I don't pray as formally as I used to. I write down a list of all those people I want to pray for. I don't kneel at the bedside anymore, because I can't get up again. But I think you can talk to God at anytime. I used to have a special little walk at Langley along a lane by the reservoir.

I think Carole Walker mentioned that she had a special place too. I don't think there is a 'secret'. I just feel God is always there and I am answerable to him for anything I do. Sometimes he should give me a dig in the ribs and say 'wake-up'. I am always grateful for the way I was brought up, because that has moulded me into the way I am.

As Tennyson said in the Morte d'Arthur,

'More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.'

What do you value in a Church and Church community?

Fellowship I think I would say. I can remember the first time I came into Woodford Church, it was after a wedding and the Church somehow folded me in. There is a special atmosphere in Woodford Church.

So how do you sum it up?

It all just comes back to 'that's me.' And I am no angel; I don't think that for a minute. But I think that if we want to find God we will find Him. I am very fond of these lines from Wordsworth's Tintern Abbey:

'That best portion of a good man's life His little nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love.'

We send our love and condolences to Mary's daughter Pauline and her husband Peter also to Mary's son Peter and his family in Texas.

Malcolm Evans

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.

I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,

Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;

Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

Helen Lowrie Marshall

Be good girls for Mother

March 1940

Dear Joan and Lillian,

I am a bit late answering your letters but I don't have much time here. I'm glad to hear that you are both doing well at school, keep it up, and I will be very pleased. I am working out in the country now and there is nothing to talk about yet. I'm glad to hear that you are going to a lot of parties. Enjoy yourselves. I'll soon be home again and we can go in the park this time. Be good girls for Mother.

Your Loving Dad rx

My first memory of the war was Friday, September 1st 1939 when I was ten years old. I came home from school to find my mother polishing the buttons on my Dad's uniform, and generally getting it spick and span. His uniform was all spread out on the kitchen table. He was in the Territorials and he must have received some order to report to the barracks.

At that time he worked for Metro-Vickers. Wages then for labourers were about 38/6d to £2 a week. Because wages were so low he cycled from Benchill, where we lived, to Trafford Park and back to save money, so he would arrive home about 6:30pm. People worked long hours in those days.

He must have had his tea, (though actually it would be his dinner), then got washed and changed into his uniform. At the beginning of the war the soldiers wore the same uniform as they had in the first world war, peak cap, puttees, buttoned and belted jackets.

I don't think he had been gone long when two policemen turned up at our house to find out why he hadn't reported to Seymour Grove. So you can imagine they got the length of my mother's tongue because he had reported to his barracks as soon as he got home from work.

Even though people were hoping war wouldn't be declared, it was more or less a foregone conclusion and our house was a very bad house that Sunday morning September 3rd at 11am. I can remember I said I would help my mother to dust, but we were all near to tears. I was 10, my sister 6 and my mother would have been 37.

We didn't see my Dad again until the middle of October. He had been somewhere outside Oldham building an internment camp for the Italians who lived in this country. He was cut to pieces with handling the barbed wire.

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Army pay was still based on first world war pay structure and my mother was finding it very difficult to manage. I seem to remember her saying it was something like 25 / - a week with a very small allotment for my sister and myself. So she went to work, where she had worked before she was married at Woolf and Highams in Hatfield Street near Cornbrook Brewery.

This was the first time my sister and I had ever been left, as in those days married women did not go out to work. So you can imagine going from Benchill to Old Trafford, with only a special bus morning and night (a number 70 if I remember correctly), She was gone from 7:30am until 6:30pm. A long time for two girls who had been really sheltered.

That first month of the war was bitterly cold and my Dad had gone with the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) to France in the October after he had been home on leave. They were sleeping in barns with one frozen blanket each and mice, rats and bats in abundance.

He didn't get home on leave again until the end of January 1940, and I shall never forget it. My birthday was January 31st and I was 11. So Mum and Dad decided to have a late Christmas and birthday party. My Uncle Tom was home on leave, as was my cousin, so we knew it was going to be a good family party. One of my happiest memories was going with my Dad, Mother and sister to Smithfield Market to buy a turkey. Dad was in his uniform and he was a great barterer - a lovely man. I know it was quite late at night because then they chopped the prices. We finally bought this turkey for £1.

A 20lb turkey at 1/- a pound with all its feathers on. What fun it was to watch Dad plucking it, holding it between his knees and running a taper over the plucked bird to singe it. I don't think I watched when he was cleaning it out! Don't forget this was a luxury to us. People only had chickens at Christmas. The poverty of the 30's is very had to realise unless you actually lived in that time. My Dad had been out of work for two years 1935-1937.

The happiness of preparing this turkey and cooking it in the back to back oven and all the goodies that go to make a party, will always remain with me. All our aunties, uncles, cousins together for the last time. It was at this party that another memory will always remain vivid. It was my Dad, Uncle Tom and Cousin Harry- all ex-territorials and army mad, presenting arms, doing rifle drill and seeing who could reload (pretend) the fastest.

Dad went back to France and mother was increasingly worried about leaving my sister and myself for these long hours. By now the weather had really turned cold and one particular night Mother was very late. My sister was crying so we decided to go and meet her at the bus stop. She must have been very shocked to see us standing there quite forlorn. I think it was then that she decided to move nearer to where she worked. At the time she must have thought she was doing the right thing, not realising what was to come.

Just as we were about to move Dad came home unexpectedly from France. His leave had been brought forward two weeks because a man who should have come home had taken ill. It was the first time my mother and Dad had really quarrelled. I think he must have known what was to happen with air raids, but mother was more concerned about leaving us on our own.

So Dad helped us to move from Benchill to this house in Old Trafford. He must have had a premonition of what was to come, because he stressed that we must always carry our gas masks and always have a block of chocolate in the gas mask incase we had to stay in a shelter for a long time. At this time the North West was not really being bombed as the South was.

While Dad was home on leave in May 1940, Belgium capitulated and being the conscientious person he was he went to East Union Street Police Station (later flattened by bombs) to ask should he return to France. They must have told him to finish his leave and when he finally returned to France it was in utter chaos.

The German army was racing through Belgium and France and the British were retreating in Dunkirk. My Dad's company, being the engineers, was left behind to blow up bridges. He was killed on May 31st 1940, but only reported as missing until his death was confirmed in 1944.

That summer was a very sad one for us because we were still hoping Dad would still turn up. I can remember looking through the railings of Stretford Road School for Boys which they had turned into a base for wounded soldiers from France, and hoping I would see him. They were all in blue uniforms.

I must have looked a funny little girl. They wouldn't have known I was looking for my Dad.

The summer wore on, walking to school through Hullard Park where the soldiers were manning anti aircraft guns and barrage balloons. On the whole the war at that time was in the South and perhaps Liverpool. The RAF were doing all they could in the battle of Britain. As winter came we started having air raids and we were always glad to hear the all-clear. Then came the Christmas Blitz.

My sister's birthday was December 21st and mother decided to make the Sunday her birthday treat. The table was set, but it was not to be. My Gran was living with us at that time. 6pm came and the sirens went and the four of us went into the shelter. It was a Morrison Shelter, brick built, at the end of the yard. We were absolutely hammered. Whistling bombs, incendiaries, the lot. It seemed to go on for hours, then there came a lull.

Mother went out and swept the broken glass from the yard. I don't think there was a pane of glass left in the windows. It was a very clear night and the sky was aglow with fires burning everywhere. On the main Chester Road, which runs parallel to Hadfield Street, a timber yard was burning fiercely and next to it, the fire men were playing their hoses on to a petrol station. Fortunately it didn't go up I

continued on Page 26



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Parish Magazine June / July 2020



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.....continued from Page 23

The sirens went again and back they came again hammering us as before but this time it must have been like Blackpool illuminations we were so well lit up. I shall always remember the sound of the land mine drifting along the back entry at the back of the house.

We didn't know it was a land mine we thought it was the wind. Mother and Gran remarked a strong wind had got up, but I can remember being very frightened because I didn't like the whistling bombs. It was always a relief when you heard it drop because you knew it hadn't hit you. The morning came – 6am.

Twelve hours of hell, and it was then we discovered that what we thought was the wind was a land mine, that had gone through the roof. Then through to the cellar of the house next door-but-one without exploding, and the air raid wardens came round and told us to find somewhere to stay for the night while they defused the mine.

That one night turned out to be ten days and we went to stay with Auntie in Wythenshawe. Even at eleven I can remember looking at my Aunt and thinking what a fuss she was making about the air raids that followed. To me they seemed miles away and of course they were, concentrating on Trafford Park, the docks and the railway yards.

Mother was finally told we could return to our house. What a state it was in. The floors of the bedrooms had come away from the walls. There wasn't a window intact, so she decided to have us evacuated and she went to live with a very close friend and her husband. Gran went to live with her daughter.

On January 1st 1941 I was on my way to Macclesfield and my sister to Congleton. Mother was always known to keep a good table and believe me, with the sandwiches she gave me for my journey you would think I was going to Timbuktoo. In those days working class people did not travel very far and I don't think she had any idea where Macclesfield and Congleton were.

When I got my sandwiches out just before Macclesfield Station the teacher must have been quite amused because she told me kindly to put them away as we were nearly there. We were taken to a Church Hall and stood in a line. People who had offered to take us in came and chose us. An experience I'll never forget. I was lucky and went to a lady and her husband with a little boy of two.

My sister first went to Thorneycroft Hall and then to a family in Congleton. Mother could only come to see us once a month because she didn't have enough money. For me time drifted on.

Sometimes from my bedroom window I would see the sky aglow from the air raids over Manchester and wonder if my Mother was alright. When she visited us she would come to Macclesfield first and then take me to see my sister at Congleton.

continued opposite.....

I returned home in the summer of 1942 and by this time the raids had subsided in the north and the war was finally going to our advantage. Another memory was standing in the living room listening to the wireless and hearing the news that we had advanced 100 miles in North Africa. I think I wept tears of joy for the first time.

There were still a lot more sad tales to tell such as Arnhem and Dieppe - but I have told you the trauma of the first years of the war for me.

You may not be interested but it has done me good to put it down on paper.

Joan Seton

This is a copy of wartime memories written by Joan, a cousin of Gordon Royle of Hall Moss Lane, who has kindly passed it on to our Parish Magazine team for inclusion in our June/July 2020 edition. We are extremely grateful for his generosity.

Something to look forward to: WWMCC Bridge Club

When it can return every Friday 7.30 - 10.15 pm in the Small Hall at Woodford Community Centre.

We are a small friendly bridge club looking forward to meeting again every Friday evening at the Woodford Community Centre.

You do not need a partner to join us as we alternate between Singles and Partners nights. If you enjoy playing rubber bridge and Chicago, you are welcome to come along as a guest to try us out.

For more details, please contact Judith Fletcher on 0161 439 5310.

An atheist had cause to visit a local vicarage. After exchanging cordial greetings with the vicar, the atheist noticed a beautiful silver and gold Orrery, a model of the Earth and the Solar System. on the hall table.

"That is amazing" exclaimed the atheist. "I would love one of those. Who made it?"

"Oh, nobody made it," replied the vicar. "It just happened."

Anonymous

Mr. Green peered over his fence and noticed that the neighbour's little boy was in his garden filling in a hole. Curious about what the youngster was up to, Mr. Green asked, "What are you doing, Jimmy?"

Tearfully, little Jimmy replied, "My goldfish died, and I've just buried him." "That's an awfully large hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Mr. Green said.

Patting down the last bit of earth, little Joey replied, "That's because he's in your cat!"

Anonymous



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New Terminology

I do not want to make light of the situation we are all in or for it to seem inappropriate. This is purely meant as a bit of fun and light entertainment which I know I could do with! **Lockdown lingo** - are you fully conversant with the new terminology? Which one is your favourite?

<u>Coronacoaster</u> The ups and downs of your mood during the pandemic. You're loving lockdown one minute but suddenly weepy with anxiety the next. It truly is "an emotional coronacoaster".

<u>Quarantinis</u> Experimental cocktails mixed from whatever random ingredients you have left in the house. The boozy equivalent of a store cupboard supper. Southern Comfort and Ribena quarantini with a glacé cherry garnish, anyone?

Blue Skype Thinking A work brainstorming session which takes place over a video-conferencing app. Such meetings might also be termed a "Zoomposium". Naturally, they are to be avoided if at all possible.

<u>Le Creuset Wrist</u> It's the new "avocado hand" - an aching arm after taking one's best saucepan outside to bang during the weekly 'Clap For Carers' to impress your neighbours

<u>Coronials</u> As opposed to millennials, this refers to the future generation of babies conceived or born during coronavirus quarantine.

Furlough Merlot Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working. Also known as "bored-eaux" or "cabernet tedium".

<u>The Elephant in the Zoom</u> The glaring issue during a video-conferencing call that nobody feels able to mention. E.g. one participant has dramatically put on weight, suddenly sprouted terrible facial hair or has a worryingly messy house visible in the background.

<u>Goutbreak</u> The sudden fear that you've consumed so much wine, cheese, home-made cake and Easter chocolate in lockdown that your ankles are swelling up like a medieval king's.

<u>Antisocial Distancing</u> Using health precautions as an excuse for <u>snubbing neighbours</u> and generally ignoring people you find most irritating.

<u>Mask-ara</u> Extra make-up applied to "make one's eyes pop" before going out in public wearing a face mask.

Covid-10 The 10lbs in weight that we're all gaining from comfort-eating and comfort-drinking. Also known as "fattening the curve".

...and finally, one fact to sum up 2020 so far (probably): At one point in late March, 1 toilet roll was worth more than a barrel of crude oil!

Stay home and stay safe friends!

Graham Purkiss and the team at Guardian Angel

Parish Magazine June / July 2020



Timothy Dudley-Smith

Hymns and Hymn Writers No2 Rt. Revd.Timothy Dudley-Smith O.B.E.

The second of a series of occasional articles by Malcolm Braddock.

"Hymn writing has been for me a most enriching and entirely unexpected gift." Timothy Dudley-Smith

In a previous article I drew attention to the famous female hymn writer of Victorian times Cecil Frances Alexander. This time as a complete contrast, I will say something about one of the most successful hymn writers of modern times – the Rt. Revd. Timothy Dudley-Smith O.B.E., former Bishop of Thetford. (Assistant to the Bishop of Norwich)

Born in 1926 in Manchester and educated at Tonbridge School, Pembroke College Cambridge and Ridley Hall Theological College Cambridge, his early ministry was in Bermondsey, London and he also held appointments in various inter-church Christian organisations. Now living in Salisbury his undoubted flair for hymn writing has continued through his retirement years to the present day. New texts continue to flow from his pen which is not bad for a 90+ year old.

Most of his hymns are based on various scriptural themes, not least from the Psalms. One could say that his work does not include wild flights of fancy or picturesque allegory but is very well written poetry which keeps strictly to the plain meaning of scripture. Two of his best known hymns, which we sing from time to time at Woodford, are 'Tell out my soul' and 'Lord of the years'.

The former was one of his earlier texts suitable for youth work and published in the 'Youth Praise' hymn book of 1966, to a lively tune by Michael Baughen (a former Bishop of Chester). It is more usually sung nowadays to a tune called 'Woodlands' by Walter Greatorex. 'Lord for the years' is very suitable for anniversaries and the start of a new year. Its tune is also by Michael Baughen.

With regard to hymn tunes, it is very unusual for the authors of hymn texts to also be the composers of the tunes. Timothy Dudley-Smith is no exception and readily confesses that he is not very musical. He therefore relies on musical friends to compose new tunes for his texts or finds existing tunes which 'fit' the words and are suitable both in metre and in character.

Ordinary members of congregations associate particular tunes with particular hymn texts and with the passage of time these become virtually inseparable.

continued over.....

It is not always realised that the tunes we normally associate with particular hymns were sometimes composed years after the words were penned. A typical example is the great Welsh hymn, 'Guide me, O thou great Jehovah'.

The words were composed in the Welsh language during the 18th century Welsh Revival by Williams, 1717-1791, but the tune with which they are invariably linked nowadays, 'Cwm Rhondda', was not composed till more recent times by John Hughes, 1873-1932.

The art of hymn writing is still alive and well in the 20th/21st centuries as exemplified by Timothy Dudley-Smith who now has around 500 to his credit.

We currently sing some at Woodford and will probably sing more in the future either to new specially composed tunes or to well known existing tunes where appropriate.

Of the writers of traditional style hymns in the present day, of which there are quite a number, including Christopher Idle, Graham Kendrick, Stuart Townend, Michael Baughen etc., Timothy Dudley-Smith stands out as being the most prolific, with excellently crafted poetry conveying the many and various aspects of our Biblically based faith.

He has recently been awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Guild of Church Musicians.

Malcolm Braddock

A Prayer for Our Time

As the rain hides the stars, as the autumn mist hides the hills, as the clouds veil the blue of sky, so the dark happenings of my lot hide the shining of thy face from me. Yet, if I may hold your hand in the darkness, it is enough. Since I know that, though I may stumble in my going, thou does't not fall.

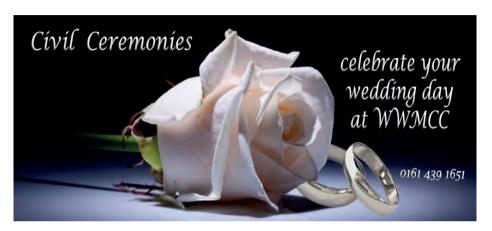
Source unknown. Contributed by Angela Brannan

- Always tell the truth, and you don't have to keep remembering what you said.
- Gossip is hearing something you like about someone you don't.
- In a moment of inspiration, the entrepreneur who owned the Laundrette beside the church commissioned this sign for the window: "Where cleanliness really is next to Godliness!"

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The Centre was opened in 1953, having been funded primarily by local donations (including A.V. Roe) and fund raising. registered charity and members of the Management Committee are All Woodford residents aged 18 years or over its Trustees. automatically members. It is home to the Woodford Players and the Woodford Women's Institute. Two halls and а large are available to hire for а varietv of functions ranging from weddings, celebrations and children's parties to craft events and dog shows. It is funded by the hire of facilities, the annual Bonfire and Firework display and donations.

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Woodford Community Council (WCC)

The Community Council was established in 1974 when Woodford became part of the newly-formed Stockport Metropolitan Borouah. All Woodford residents who are aged 18 years or over are entitled to vote at the AGM and stand for election to the committee. interests Its purpose is to promote the of the residents Woodford affect by addressing issues that the community and liaising with Stockport Council and other relevant bodies. is funded by website and newsletter sponsorships and donations.

www.woodfordcommunity.co.uk Email: info@woodfordcommunity.co.uk

Woodford Neighbourhood Forum (WNF)

The Forum is a legally designated organisation established in 2013, in accordance the 2011 Localism Act. The designated Neighbourhood Area is all of Woodford, except the former aerodrome site. Membership is open to anyone who lives or works in the Neighbourhood Area. The aim is to promote and improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Area. The Woodford Neighbourhood Plan (WNP), prepared in consultation with residents and Stockport Council and aided by Government grant funding, is progressing.

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June / July 2020



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From the Church Registers March & April 2020



Funerals

2nd March

John Miller

Funerals at graveside

28th March 8th April Alec Maguire Joan Hardman



Coming Events in the Church Hall More opportunities to meet new friends.



Church Lunch

On the third Wednesday of the month at 12noon



SCRAPBOOKING



Do you have photographs and other memorabilia that you would like to present and arrange to preserve memories in style as an enjoyable craft activity? Why not come along and share ideas with other like minded folk – and enjoy the company.

We meet on the first and third Thursday of the month at 9.30am.

CAMEO

Come And Meet Each Other

This is an informal social group, meeting once a month from October through to April when we listen to a speaker or enjoy an activity followed by refreshments and a time to chat with friends. We meet at $7.30 \, \mathrm{pm}$ on the 2^{nd} Tuesday of the month.

Friendship Group

The Friendship Group Is a small group of people who meet in the Church Hall from 10am to 12 noon on alternate Mondays. Anyone is welcome to come to any meeting, to enjoy a friendly natter over a cup of tea or coffee. There are knitting or



sewing activities to be done or some bring their own work. However any of these are optional, the aim is just to be a friendly group.

All of the above regular activities will resume when the current restrictions are lifted.



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A Message from the Finance Team at Christ Church

So much of what we would call "normality" seems to be in turmoil, in recession or in lock-down at this dreadful time.

Our beloved Church's well-being continues to be as important as ever and the need for us to keep on a steady course remains absolutely essential despite our enforced lack of church services.

Our sincere thanks go to Rev David and to David Jones for all they are doing to keep in close contact with us all via emailed daily devotions and our website www.christchurchwoodford.org

Sadly we receive no financial dispensations, grants or payment holidays. In fact, there is very little, if anything, to indicate that things are any different to normal times, other than the fact that we are "closed for normal business".

We are very fortunate to be still receiving income from those of our church members who generously contribute to our funds through their monthly Standing Orders.

At the same time, we are unable to collect the contributions from those members who give regularly via either the Numbered Envelope Scheme or by the Gift-Aided Envelopes available in church.

Over the past few weeks, and following the message from Rev David, Graham and I have received several request for our bank details so that contributions can be made direct to our bank by either Standing Order or by individual money transfers. For that reason, I have included those details and a copy of our Standing Order Mandate. Standing Orders can also be set up on-line if you prefer.

Should you wish to take up either method of helping us financially, whether it be with a one-off gift, an alternative method of donating for the duration of the pandemic or on a more permanent basis, we really would be most grateful.

Rest assured Graham and I will, as usual, be closely monitoring all of our expenses and doing all we can to protect our finances.

The fact remains that we will be needing help to cope with the stresses the current situation places on us. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Yours most sincerely,

Paul Rodman. Treasurer

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Please send this completed form to your bank. Many thanks for your support. Paul Rodman

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	PostCode:
Signature:	Date:

Note: Please notify the Church Treasurer if you:

- Wish to cancel this Declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax and/or capital gains.

Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax, currently 20% which allows charities to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated.

If you pay income tax at the higher rate or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid Donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue & Customs to adjust your tax code.

If we already have a Gift Aid Declaration from you please indicate this at the time of any donation you are able to make.

Almighty God, my Heavenly Father,

Thank you that, by your Holy Spirit you are with me. Please would He be at work in me helping me to know your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, better.

Please would He help me to see more of Jesus' glory and love, and so to find in Him, calm, peace and hope.

I pray now for all those dear to me, and I ask that you would help them in the challenges they face.

I pray for those working so hard in the NHS, on the 'front-line,' and those working on finding a vaccine. Thank you for all their hard work.

And I pray for everyone who is anxious and fearful about going back to work.

I pray for the leaders of the world that, with humility before you, they would carry out their duty with wisdom and compassion.

Please forgive us for those times when humanity has thought that we do not need you. And please bring our world through this time, and into a closer walk with you.

All these things I pray in Jesus' name and for His glory.

Amen

Remain safe and well and stay close to the Lord.

Seeking to know Christ better and to make Christ better known.