

Parish Magazine

£1



April / May 2020

Chichester Road, Croydon

www.stmatthew.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1132508

Services at St Matthew's

Sunday Morning Services

1st 3rd 4th and 5th Sundays

8.30 am Eucharist (Said)

**10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Choir and Children's Groups
followed by tea and coffee in the foyer**

2nd Sunday

8.30 am Eucharist (Said)

10.30am Café Church

Sunday Evening Service

As Announced

Morning Prayer

Monday to Thursday 9.15 am

Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion (Said)

Baptisms, Weddings and Banns of Marriage

By arrangement with the Vicar

St Matthew's Vision

***'Celebrating God's love throughout the whole
community***

By what we believe and do'.

Dear friend,

If you Google the word 'Easter' and click on 'images' you will see pictures of brightly coloured eggs, bunnies and chicks. You have to scroll down quite a long way to find a picture of the cross and empty tomb. Of course there is a 'Religious' button, but the secular world doesn't really want to know about religion. Perhaps it's a good thing that we have to search for the true meaning of Easter.



Just as at Christmas it takes some effort to get beyond the tinsel and mistletoe to really see the true meaning of the baby in the manger, so too at Easter we have to look hard to see the true meaning of the man on the cross.

God does not always make himself obvious to human eyes. Only a few unkempt shepherds and mysterious foreigners caught a glimpse of the Christ-child, and it was a Roman soldier, not the learned scribes, who recognised that 'truly this man was the Son of God!' Today, in these unprecedented times of struggle against an invisible virus, we, the people of God, have an unprecedented opportunity to invite people to seek and to find the only known cure for a yet more serious problem. Because the true enemy of the human race is not Covid 19, it is a much more deadly threat - sin, our refusal to live as God our creator has called us to live.

Jesus has provided the only way back from the state of separation from God that is the result of sin, by his birth, death and resurrection. Jesus is the only cure for the human condition. He is our true source of hope, that although we must all die, we shall all be made alive.

Easter eggs, bunnies and chicks are associated with new life, but the new life which the risen Christ both offers and embodies is not the same as the life which hatches out of an egg. Resurrection life is a whole new way of being. Because we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we can say with total confidence that our sins, and indeed the sin of the entire world has been forgiven - wiped out and totally forgotten by our gracious and merciful God. So the possibility exists that we can live in the way God wants us to - loving him, our neighbour and one another, with the love that is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. It is the life of the Spirit that God calls us all to live as we receive the gift not only of forgiveness but also of himself. Easter is more than an event to look back on and give thanks for. We are all called to be partakers in Jesus' death and resurrection, becoming united with him to such an extent that we may be able to say with Paul the apostle:

‘I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.’ Galatians 2.20

Hallelujah! What a Saviour! May you, wherever you are, and however isolated you may have to be, have a truly blessed Easter.

With my love and prayers.

Simon

An Easter Day reflection

“The Importance of the Cross”

(From the current edition of “Every Day with Jesus” by Selwyn Hughes)

The cross must become a vital part of your everyday life. Why? Because you have three relentless enemies you must become each day: sin, satan and self. How do you overcome them? By living the crucified life. Paul writes, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” You say, “it’s too difficult to live a Christian life.” No, it’s not difficult... it’s impossible. The only way is to let the power and person of Christ live through you. That’s why Paul wrote, “God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world (Galatians 6:14).

After years in a Russian labour camp, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn became so depressed that he wanted to die. Laying his shovel down, he walked over to a bench and sat down, knowing that any moment a guard could come by and use that shovel and beat him to death. It was then that a fellow inmate took a stick and in the sand at Solzhenitsyn’s feet traced out the sign of the cross. As he stared at it, his entire perspective shifted. Realising the cross represented the greatest power in the universe, he slowly got up, picked up his shovel, and went back to work under the sign of the cross. And you must do that too.

Each day remind yourself : “Jesus died for me. I died with Him. When I die to me He lives in me. When He lives in me, I can live for Him.” That’s the secret of a victorious life.



Raphael's Mond Crucifixion, 1503 (National Gallery)

Reflections on the Corona-Crisis

This is a very challenging article written by Dr Clifford Hill, taken from last week's edition of "Prophecy Today" - with permission.

What should Christians do?

Extraordinary language for extraordinary times: the coronavirus has been described as a 'tsunami' breaking in wave after wave on the shores of each nation and its embattled health services.

Boris Johnson (himself now a victim of the virus) has described it as an *"invisible enemy"*. Something we cannot see, hear, touch, taste or smell has brought the world to its knees, drastically changing our way of life (perhaps irrevocably) as over 2.6 billion people are in 'lockdown' and the world's economy plunges into recession.

Freedom and Fear

Freedoms we took for granted have gladly been surrendered in the virus' wake. Governments have assumed powers – and we have gladly allowed them to – that in normal times would make us shudder in disbelief. Who knows how these will be retained or used in future?

For many of us, our lives have moved online:

- We are working remotely,
- Church services are livestreamed,
- Prayer meetings are being conducted via video-conferencing,
- Leisure activities, exercise classes and hobbies are being conducted in virtual groups.

Police have been given extraordinary powers to break up meetings in the open air. For now, we can meet in freedom online. However, we are more easily traceable and accountable when we are online.

Many people in the streets look frightened, hunted. The beautiful sunshine of recent days belies the darkness that we sense engulfing us. Some are too frightened even to look others in the eye, casting fearful sideways glances as though the virus can be caught by a look or a smile.

The pace of change has been extraordinary. 'Lockdown' began on Tuesday – yet it already seems like a lifetime ago that we could drive where we wanted when we wanted, without having an essential reason for it.

What should Christians do? Pray and work like never before; shine like stars in the night sky (Phil 2)!

Benefits

Someone has pointed out the following beneficial effects of the pandemic:

- It is reminding us that we are all **equal**, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. This disease treats us all equally - just ask Tom Hanks, the Prince of Wales or Boris Johnson.
- It is reminding us that we are all **connected** – something that affects one person has an effect on another.
- It is reminding us of the **shortness of life** and of what is most important for us to do, which is to help each other - especially those who are old or sick. Our purpose is not to buy stuff - not even loo roll.
- It is reminding us of how **materialistic** our society has become. In times of difficulty, we remember that it's the essentials that we need (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes unnecessarily give value to.
- It is reminding us of how important **family and home life** is and how much we have neglected this. It is forcing us back into our houses so we can rebuild them into our homes and strengthen our family units.
- It is reminding us that our **true work** is not our job. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another.

Enforced Sabbath Rest

So, there is a recognition that we have overstepped the mark, gone too far. Now is the reckoning. The world that would not sleep is taking an enforced sabbath. The pause button has been pressed. Priorities are being reassessed. But will we learn the lessons of this enforced sabbath? For young people, life is on hold – no exams, fewer jobs, social isolation, weddings postponed, casual dating finished. Anti-social behaviour is likely to decrease as drunken nights out cease and street crime - muggings and knife attacks - should diminish similarly. However, cyber-crime is increasing with corona-fear scams catching out the unwary. Carbon emissions dropping drastically has been one benefit of this enforced rest.

The Great Day Approaches

This is a time that will never be forgotten - it is a foretaste of life before the great Day when the Messiah returns.

Until that time, even as the darkness increases: *“As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work”* (John 9:4). In future, despite the current difficulties, we might look back on this time as one of relative ease. Let’s not waste it but find new ways of cooperating among believers and meeting together (Heb 10:25). The speed of the recent changes should remind us that when that Day comes it will be with *“speed and finality”* (Rom 9:28).

What Must I Do to be Saved?

So, what should we do? Christians have already received their instructions – the Great Commission. We cannot *“go”* any more, but we can still make disciples. We cannot go out, but we can pick up the phone. People are seeking answers. Five million are said to have attended the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Sunday service livestreamed last week. Now is the time to share your hope. Don’t risk letting the people you know and love go to their deaths without hearing the gospel of God – the hope and peace in the face of fear found in the Lord Jesus, the Messiah.

Now is the Day of Salvation. Today!

This is a time for Christians to be active – it’s not a time to sit at home cringing and wringing our hands. It is not a time to retreat in self-indulgence or escapism. We must watch, pray, seek the Lord and work harder than ever. Contact people by whatever means you can. If you can volunteer, do so and demonstrate the love of God. Pick up the phone, write emails, use video-conferencing, send cards and letters, enclose gospel booklets. The churches are shut. The gospel is in your hands – you have the responsibility and the ability to spread it – let it spread faster than the virus!

**May the Church worldwide rise to this challenge
and may God have mercy on us all!**

The Persecuted Church

I've selected two aspects where Barnabas Fund (and other agencies) assist our persecuted brothers and sisters.

Refugees and internally displaced people

Many Christians have to flee from persecution or anti-Christian violence, sometimes escaping with the nothing but their lives. Boko Haram attacks have caused hundreds of thousands of Christians to take refuge in IDP (internally displaced people) camps in Nigeria. In far North Cameroon, thousands of Christians are being displaced from villages by ongoing ruthless, Boko Haram attacks. Many have fled to save their lives, leaving behind their livelihoods and all their possessions.

Hundreds of thousands of Syrian and Iraqi Christians have fled from genocidal violence at the hands of Islamic State and other Islamist militant groups. They cannot return home because of hostility from their neighbours and they dare not live in normal refugee or IDP camps for fear of further persecution from Muslims living in the camps. In Myanmar, mainly Christian villages are attacked by the army and all the inhabitants must flee or be killed. Western governments and the UN generally refuse to recognise the particular suffering of Christians or to grant them asylum on that basis. Barnabas' Refugees Fund gives practical help to thousands of Christian IDP and refugees.



Children

On 30th August 2017, Sharoon Masih, a Pakistani schoolboy, was beaten to death by his Muslim classmates. Such extreme violence is thankfully rare, but for minority Christian children around the world, school is a place where they face hostility and probably pressure to convert to the majority religion. This comes not just from other children, but also from teachers. Christian students can also be marked down or failed in exams. Many other Christian children come from families who are too poor to afford to send them to school at all, often because parents are trapped in poverty due to anti-Christian discrimination, while those who are refugees fleeing persecution, famine or conflict simply have no school to go to.

War deprives children of more than just their education. Many are robbed of their childhoods too. Barnabas Fund has helped provide trauma counselling for Syrian Christian children, distressed by the horrors they have seen and experienced in the years of war and persecution.

In China and Tajikistan, authorities have banned children from attending Sunday school; the laws apply even if children are accompanied by their parents. Such restrictions make it harder for children to grow up in the Christian faith. In Pakistan and Egypt, Christian girls may be abducted and raped, compelled to convert to Islam and forced into marriage with a Muslim- often their abductor.



In the current crisis I shall continue to provide a Persecuted Church prayer topic for the “Weekly Link”.

Easter celebrations in different countries

Spain

Spain is well-known for its Semana Santa or Holy Week traditions. A common feature of Easter celebrations is the ubiquitous use of the nazareno or penitential robe for use in processions, representing the Christian sacrament of penance, or reconciliation with God. While this might seem like a rather sombre way to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, the festival is not without its own fun, celebration and culinary tradition. On *Domingo de Pascua* (Easter Sunday), it is traditional in Spanish culture for a godfather to present his godchild with a cake known as "*La Mona de Pascua*." The word *Mona* is derived from the Moroccan term meaning "gift" and the word Pascua from Spanish for Easter. Another popular Spanish Easter dish is the torrijas. This is a blend of slices of bread



soaked in milk, sugar and egg, then fried in olive oil. The dish is served along with wine, syrup, honey, sugar or cinnamon for an extra touch of the festive spirit.

Brazil

Like the Spanish, Brazilian worshippers take out procession walks, carrying statues of the Virgin Mary and the body of Jesus Christ. As can be expected of



the Brazilians, it is not all sombre. Instead of celebrating after Sexta -feira Santa (Good Friday) as it is common in Europe, in Brazil the party begins weeks beforehand. The world- renowned Rio Carnival precedes the Ash Wednesday, the first of 40 days of Lent. Sambodromo," the mile -long parade in Rio, is thronged by a huge crowd of locals and tourists from around the globe.

On the last Sunday and Monday nights before Lent, the enchanted onlookers are cheered up by Samba dance troupes participating in the celebration.



Indonesia

There are around seven million Catholics in Indonesia. Christianity was brought here by Portuguese missionaries. And statues from this time are carried through the streets. Young men consider it an honour to be chosen to play Jesus and be tied to

a cross on various locations.

Bermuda

On Good Friday, the locals celebrate by making homemade kites, eating codfish cakes and hot cross buns. The tradition is said to have begun when a local teacher from the British Army had difficulty explaining Christ's ascension to Heaven to his Sunday school class. He made a kite,



traditionally shaped like a cross, to illustrate the Ascension.

Germany

In many countries Easter eggs are hidden and children hunt for them. However, in Germany Easter eggs are displayed on trees and prominently in streets; some trees have thousands of multi-coloured eggs hanging on them.



Worship and prayer resources to use during the Covid-19 pandemic.

At times of worry many people take comfort in praying or in knowing that others are praying for them. This is to help you find ways of finding comfort at times of stress.

- This booklet contains a range of resources to help you pray and worship at home:
 - Places to find worship and prayer while at home
 - Prayers written especially for this outbreak
 - Prayers for children
 - Helpful Bible passages

The Archbishops of the Church of England have taken the step of suspending public worship until further notice owing to the Coronavirus pandemic.

As they wrote in their letter to the church on March 17th:

“We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world.”

We want to ensure that prayer and worship continues, even though churches have had to suspend their services and activities.

There are many ways in which we can continue to share in worship together, even if we are not in the same room.

You might find it helpful to set aside specific times of the day and week to pray and worship. Find a quiet place in your home and enable other members of your household to join you. You might want to light a candle to create a prayerful atmosphere and to use as a focus for your prayers.

You could also try praying with others while still physically distant – for example, over the phone, text messaging, or using video calls.

Praying doesn't have to include words. Some people take comfort through meditation, listening to music or, if able, to walk in nature or along a beach.

Laughter is the wonderful for the soul as well as the immune system so find a reason to smile each day.

However you keep an inner strength, do take the time to keep nourished and keep well.

Places to find prayer and worship while at home

Church of England Daily Prayer:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer>

you can also get this as the '**Daily Prayer**' App there is a very small charge for this

The **Time to Pray App** gives prayers for each day including Night Prayer (Compline). It gives a slightly shorter set of prayers than Daily Prayer. It has just been made Free to all!

The Lectio365 App gives a Bible based devotion for each day.

On the **Radio** there is a daily service at 9.45am on **Radio 4** DAB side channel which is automatically made available about a minute before the programme begins. After tuning to Radio 4 DAB, select "Daily Service"...

Premier Christian Radio broadcasts Bible studies at intervals throughout the day.

At noon and at 2.30pm they have "worship hours" which include worship songs, prayer and Bible readings.

BBC One broadcasts Songs of Praise every Sunday at 1.15pm.

If you have access to the internet, there are many churches that are broadcasting worship and prayers, either on their website or using Facebook Live or Twitter.

Some clergy are also sharing daily prayer in this way too and that is what we are planning to do – we will send email updates on this.

Online, there are countless resources that provide daily prayer & Bible readings.

Now could be a good time to order a Christian book and some Bible reading notes such as:

www.10ofthose.com/uk

www.thegoodbook.co.uk

A friend sent this last week. Will this happen during the lockdown?

“And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened and rested and exercised, and made art and played games, and learned new ways of being and were still and listened more deeply.

Some meditated, some prayed and some danced. Some met their shadows and people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.



And when the danger passed and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses and made new choices, and dreamed new images and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully as they had been healed.”

**Many readers appreciated the puns in the previous issue.
Here are some more- enjoy!**

Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak

I was wondering why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Two windmills are standing in a wind farm. One asks, “What’s your favourite kind of music?” The other says, “I’m a big metal fan.”

What do you call a bee that can’t make up its mind? A maybe.

I tried to sue the airline for losing my luggage. I lost my case

All chemists know that alcohol is always a solution.

Jill broke her finger today, but on the other hand she was completely fine.

A cross-eyed teacher couldn’t control his pupils.

Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today? I don't know and don't really care.

Quotes for reflection and challenges

I was recently rereading a book ("The Return of the Prodigal Son") by **Henri J M Nouwen, (1932 –1996)** who was a Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian. His interests were rooted primarily in psychology, pastoral ministry, spirituality, social justice and community. Over the course of his life, Nouwen was heavily influenced by the work of Thomas Merton, Rembrandt, and Vincent van Gogh. I am so impressed by this man's intellectual calibre and original thought that all the quotes on this page are by him.

"We need to be angels for each other, to give each other strength and consolation.

Because only when we fully realize that the cup of life is not only a cup of sorrow but also a cup of joy will we be able to drink it.

"The spiritual life does not remove us from the world but leads us deeper into it"

"Dare to love and to be a real friend. The love you give and receive is a reality that will lead you closer and closer to God as well as those whom God has given you to love."

"A friend is more than a therapist or confessor, even though a friend can sometimes heal us and offer us God's forgiveness. A friend is that other person with whom we can share our solitude, our silence, and our prayer. A friend is that other person with whom we can look at a tree and say, "Isn't that beautiful," or sit on the beach and silently watch the sun disappear under the horizon. With a friend we don't have to say or do something special. With a friend we can be still and know that God is there with both of us."

"You don't think your way into a new kind of living. You live your way into a new kind of thinking."

"Jesus was a revolutionary, who did not become an extremist, since he did not offer an ideology, but Himself."

"Compassion is born when we discover in the centre of our own existence not only that God is God and man is man, but also that our neighbour is really our fellow man."

When we become aware that we do not have to escape our pains...those very pains are transformed from expressions of despair into signs of hope.

Story behind the Easter Hymn

“Low in the grave He lay”



This is one of my favourite Easter hymns which, under these difficult and uncertain times, I shall sing along (doubtless with many others, globally) at an Easter hymn website on 12th April. The text was written, and the tune composed, by Robert Lowry in 1874 after he had moved to preach at the First Baptist Church in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. He also served there as a professor at Bucknell University. During the spring of that year, Lowry was having his evening devotions and was impressed with the events associated with Christ's resurrection. Soon he found himself in the parlour of his home and, in a very

spontaneous fashion, penned the words and music for this song.

It was first published the following year in a Sunday school songbook *Brightest and Best* of which he was co-editor with William Howard Doane (1832-1915). This song emphasizes both the facts and the importance of the resurrection of Christ. Lowry is credited with the publication of over twenty collections and continued to be interested in church music all of his life. It has often been said that the quality of Lowry's hymns did much to improve the cause of church music during the latter part of the nineteenth century. We can joyfully sing this favourite hymn as we thank God for the death and resurrection of Jesus. But on Easter Day we “Rejoice, He is risen, He is risen indeed!”

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Saviour,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Saviour;
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Death cannot keep its Prey, Jesus my Saviour;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

GOOD THINGS
207 Low in the Grave He Lay

1. Low in the grave He lay, Je-sus, my Sav-ior! Wait-ing the com-ing day,
2. Vain-ly they watch His bod-y, Je-sus, my Sav-ior! Vain-ly they seal the dead,
3. Death can not keep His prey, Je-sus, my Sav-ior! He tore the bars a-way.

Je-sus, my Lord! Up from the grave He a-rose, with a
His a-rose, with a
might-y tri-umph o'er His foes. He a-rose a vic-tor from the
His a-rose
dark do-main, and He lives for-ev-er with His saints to reign. He a-
rose! He a-rose! He a-rose! Hail Je-su-s! Christ a-rose!

WORDS: Robert Lowry (1874)
MUSIC: Robert Lowry (1874)

CHRIST AROSE
MUSIC: Robert Lowry (1874)



The Garden Tomb, Jerusalem, which I visited last year.

Some observations

The best day, today

The greatest thought, God.

The greatest need, common sense.

The most expensive indulgence, hate.

The most disagreeable person, the complainer.

The best teacher, the one who makes you want to learn.

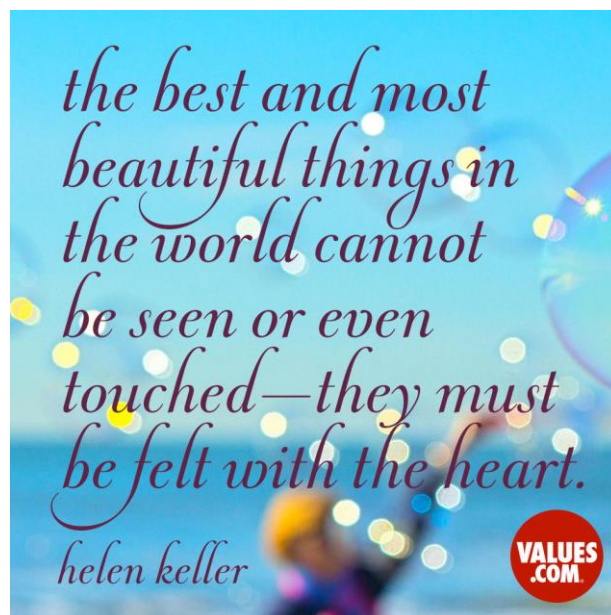
The greatest deceiver, the one who deceives himself.

The cheapest, easiest and most stupid thing to do, finding fault.

The greatest comfort, knowing that you have done your work well.

The most agreeable companion, the one who would not have you any different than you are.

The meanest feeling, being envious of another's success.



Helen Keller (1880- 1968) was an American author, political activist and lecturer. She was the first deaf- blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Of all the empires that have risen and fallen throughout history, it is the Roman which has left the most permanent legacy – through its Latin language, its dress for the priesthood, the supreme elegance of its architecture and its infrastructure of straight roads, bridges, viaducts and aqueducts and the place names which have spread throughout the English- and other language-speaking countries. Its imprint is everywhere – in our law and civil society and in the key notion of what it is to be a citizen rather than the subject of an arbitrary higher power. For to be a citizen was to be a free man with full agency to participate in determining the running of one's own affairs with rights and duties to vote and bear arms, confident in an impartial system of justice, due reward for diligent

service and the honour that brings.



St. Peter's basilica is a building of astounding power, beauty and ambition, topped as it is by Michelangelo's soaring dome and graced within by his piteous *Pietà* sculpture. The sheer scale of this

refulgent structure in its dazzling white piazza is quite staggering. While St. Peter's was erected to the glory of God, the other great Roman landmark, the Colosseum, was erected as a monument to Rome's military victories and as a permanent amphitheatre to celebrate its sway over lesser outposts of the empire with lavish displays of mortal combat between man and beast to entertain its citizenry. Again its gigantic structure is over-poweringly impressive, taking longer to complete than Northern Europe's Gothic cathedrals. The sacred and the profane thus stand on opposite sides of the River Tiber as strident symbols of spiritual and earthly powers. Today the city resonates with reminders of its epic cinema – *Ben Hur*, *Roma-Città aperta*, *La Dolce Vita*, each depicting the eternal cycle of decadence, penitence and redemption.

Here are the Spanish Steps, which pilgrims have not yet worn smooth and there is the Trevi Fountain, where Anita Ekberg reputedly wore fisherman's waders to keep her knickers dry during her frolic in its waters with Marcello Mastroianni. The huge



Circus Maximus, the ancient chariot racetrack, lies intact as a grassy basin, but it once had the capacity to hold 250,000 spectators. And all around throughout the city lie the lovely parks – the Palatinate and the Villa Borghese – with their tidy clumps of low-lying pines like sprouting broccoli.



Then there's 'Eataly' (or the way Italians pronounce the name of their country) – a cunning pun to divert attention from the *graffiti* on charming old vernacular buildings - whose walls do not enjoy being made foolscap of – to the real business of sustaining life through

their gastronomy. The fruits of the earth are glorified at table and become a kind of votive offering for the privilege of being alive. Outsize oranges and pears give off a special lustre on their market stalls, the aroma of pasta, pizza and olive oil wafts gently on the air, while the irresistible lure of almost molten *gelati*/ice cream lies around every corner.

The Olympic Stadium (built for Rome 1960) is approached along an avenue of upright tablets marking the rise of Fascism, including Mussolini's infamous March on Rome in 1922. At the end his name adorns a great, vertical slab of



marble with '*Dux*' (*Il Duce*) at its base. It seems his only real legacy to the world is similarly awful architecture in other countries. After a few days in classical Rome, you learn not to laugh at Poundbury.

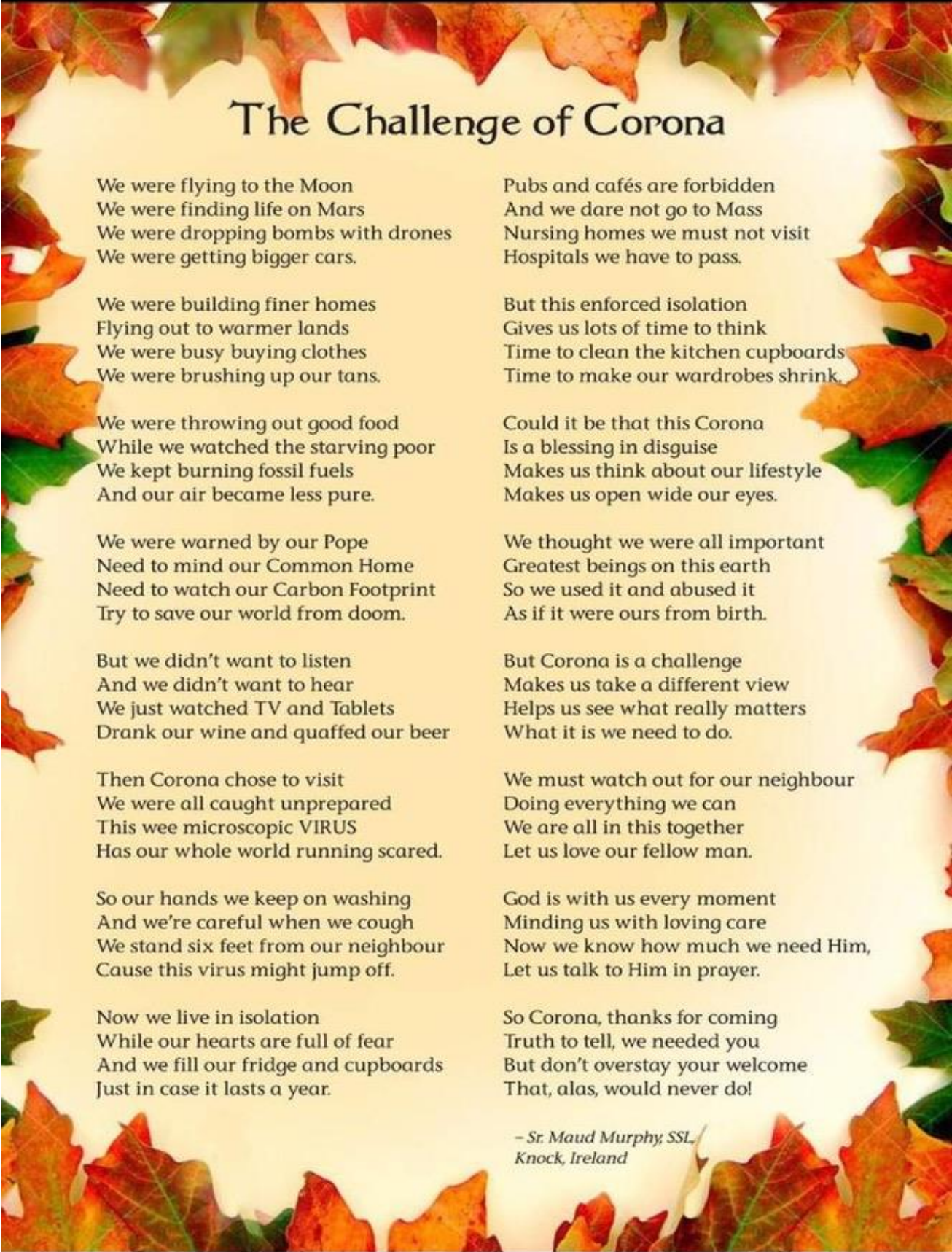
Percy Shelley and John Keats are buried in the Protestant cemetery just outside the old city wall. In a quiet corner, Keats's tomb is engraved with the words he wanted: '*Here lies one whose name was writ in water.*' He, Shelley, Byron and many other Romantic poets were all in thrall to that '*beaker full of the warm South/ Full of the true, the blushful Hippocrene.*'



Shelley



Keats



The Challenge of Corona

We were flying to the Moon
We were finding life on Mars
We were dropping bombs with drones
We were getting bigger cars.

We were building finer homes
Flying out to warmer lands
We were busy buying clothes
We were brushing up our tans.

We were throwing out good food
While we watched the starving poor
We kept burning fossil fuels
And our air became less pure.

We were warned by our Pope
Need to mind our Common Home
Need to watch our Carbon Footprint
Try to save our world from doom.

But we didn't want to listen
And we didn't want to hear
We just watched TV and Tablets
Drank our wine and quaffed our beer

Then Corona chose to visit
We were all caught unprepared
This wee microscopic VIRUS
Has our whole world running scared.

So our hands we keep on washing
And we're careful when we cough
We stand six feet from our neighbour
Cause this virus might jump off.

Now we live in isolation
While our hearts are full of fear
And we fill our fridge and cupboards
Just in case it lasts a year.

Pubs and cafés are forbidden
And we dare not go to Mass
Nursing homes we must not visit
Hospitals we have to pass.

But this enforced isolation
Gives us lots of time to think
Time to clean the kitchen cupboards
Time to make our wardrobes shrink.

Could it be that this Corona
Is a blessing in disguise
Makes us think about our lifestyle
Makes us open wide our eyes.

We thought we were all important
Greatest beings on this earth
So we used it and abused it
As if it were ours from birth.

But Corona is a challenge
Makes us take a different view
Helps us see what really matters
What it is we need to do.

We must watch out for our neighbour
Doing everything we can
We are all in this together
Let us love our fellow man.

God is with us every moment
Minding us with loving care
Now we know how much we need Him,
Let us talk to Him in prayer.

So Corona, thanks for coming
Truth to tell, we needed you
But don't overstay your welcome
That, alas, would never do!

*— Sr. Maud Murphy, SSL,
Knock, Ireland*

Archbishop Janani Luwum- a 20th Century Ugandan martyr.

The background

Around 1900, Uganda became a British protectorate, with the chief of the Buganda tribe as nominal ruler, and with several other tribes included in the protectorate. In 1962 Uganda became an independent country within the British Commonwealth, with the Bugandan chief as president and Milton Obote, of the Lango tribe, as Prime Minister. In 1966, Obote took full control of the government. In 1971, he was overthrown by



General Idi Amin, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. Almost immediately, he began a policy of repression, arresting anyone suspected of not supporting him. Hundreds of soldiers from the Lango and Acholi tribes were shot down in their barracks. Amin ordered the expulsion of the Asian population of Uganda, about 55,000 persons, mostly small shopkeepers from India and Pakistan.

On Sunday, 30 January, Bishop Festo Kivengere preached on "The Preciousness of Life" to an audience including many high government officials. He denounced the arbitrary bloodletting, and accused the government of abusing the authority that God had entrusted to it. The government responded by an early morning raid on the home of the Archbishop, Janani Luwum, ostensibly to search for hidden stores of weapons. The Archbishop called on President Amin to deliver a note of protest at the policies of arbitrary killings and the unexplained disappearances of many persons. Amin accused the Archbishop of treason, produced a document supposedly by former President Obote attesting his guilt, and had the Archbishop and two Cabinet members (both committed Christians) arrested and held for military trial.

The three met briefly with four other prisoners who were awaiting execution, and were permitted to pray with them. Then the three were placed in a Land Rover and not seen alive again by their friends. The government story is that one of the prisoners tried to seize control of the vehicle and that it was wrecked and the passengers killed. The story believed by the Archbishop's supporters is that he refused to sign a confession, was beaten and otherwise abused, and finally shot. His body was placed in a sealed coffin and sent to his native village for burial there. However, the villagers opened the coffin and discovered the bullet holes. In the capital city of Kampala a crowd of about 4,500 gathered for a memorial service beside the grave that had been prepared

for him next to that of the martyred Bishop Hannington in 1885. In Nairobi, the capital of nearby Kenya, about 10,000 gathered for another memorial service. Bishop Kivengere was informed that he was about to be arrested, and he and his family fled to Kenya, as did the widow and orphans of Archbishop Luwum.

Janani Luwum was born in 1922 at Mucwini in East Acholi in Uganda. His father was a convert to Christianity. As a boy Janani spent his time herding the family's cattle, goats and sheep. His father could not afford for him to go to school until he was 10 but then Janani worked hard and went on to Gulu High School and then on to Boroboro Teacher Training. Janani taught in a primary school before he was converted in 1948. He became very active in the East



African revival movement. First he studied to be a lay reader, and then a deacon. He was priested in 1956; in 1966 he became Provincial Secretary and in 1969 he was consecrated bishop of Northern Uganda. In 1974 Janani Luwum he became Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire. Amin's regime became infamous around the world. Thousands of people were arrested, beaten, imprisoned without trial and killed. Archbishop Luwum often went personally to the office of the dreaded State Research Bureau to help secure the release of prisoners.

Tension between Church and state worsened in 1976. Religious leaders, including Archbishop Luwum, met to discuss the deteriorating situation and asked for an interview with Idi Amin to share their concern. The President reprimanded the Archbishop. But Archbishop Luwum continued to attend Government functions. One of his critics accused him of being on the Government side and he replied: "I face daily being picked up by the soldiers. While the opportunity is there I preach the Gospel with all my might, and my conscience is clear before God that I have not sided with the present Government which is utterly self-seeking. I have been threatened many times. Whenever I have the opportunity I have told the President the things the churches disapprove of. God is my witness." On 5 February 1977 the Archbishop's house was raided by soldiers and, as he was taken away, Archbishop Luwum turned to his brother bishops and said: "Do not be afraid. I see God's hand in this."

At the memorial service Janani Luwum was proclaimed the first martyr of the Church of Uganda's second century.

Parish Church of St Matthew, Croydon

Church Address	Chichester Road Croydon CR0 5NQ	8681 3147
Parish Office Email Address	churchadmin@stmatthew.org.uk	
Website	www.stmatthew.org.uk	
Parish Administrator	Terry Mitchell	8681 3147
Hall Bookings	Contact Parish Administrator	
Vicar	Revd Simon Foster revsimon@stmatthew.org.uk	8688 5055
Assistant Priest	Revd Linda Fox linda.stmatthews@gmail.com	07736708828
Readers	Paul Parmenter Alison Radford	8689 5874
Director of Music & Choir	Michael Strange	
Southwark Pastoral	Carolyn Tweed	
Auxiliaries	Sue Collins	
Churchwardens	Stephen Collingwood Rohini Abhayaratne	8686 2815
PCC Secretary	David Williams	8768 3599
Treasurer & Gift Aid Recorder	Terry Mitchell	
Sacristan	Gillian Bridger	
Assistant Sacristan	Jerry Savage	
Electoral Roll Officer	David Williams	
Magazine Editor	Steve Tucker stephen.tucker123@btinternet.com	8681 6872

Parish Committees and Organisations

Young Church (Sunday 10am)	Judith Spencer-Gregson	8688 6640
Fundraising Team	Jane Passfield	
Fellowship Team	Lucasta Grayson	
Communications Team	Revd Simon Foster	
Fabric Team	Stephen Collingwood	
Finance Team	Richard Tweed	
Pastoral Team	Revd Simon Foster	
Circle Dance	Sally Ditzel	07568338204

Youth Groups and Clubs

Rainbow Guides (Wednesday 6.10-7.30)		
Brownies (Wednesday 6.30-8.00pm)	Laura Easton	
Ten O'Clock Club (Tuesday 10-12noon)		
Cubs (Tuesday 7-8.30pm)	Simon Hamilton	07730586252
Scouts (Tuesday 7.30-9.00pm)	Michael Smaldon	07949566023
Guides (Wednesday 6.45-8.30pm)		
Beavers (Friday 6.30-7.30pm)	Tracey Hague	07528812877

For details of other activities taking place at church during the week that include Pilates, Bach Choir, Philharmonic Choir, Children's Ballet, Children's Drama and U3A Groups. Please contact the organisers direct. Details from the Parish Office which is usually open Monday to Thursday 9.30am -12.30pm.