

# The Good News

Spring 2021



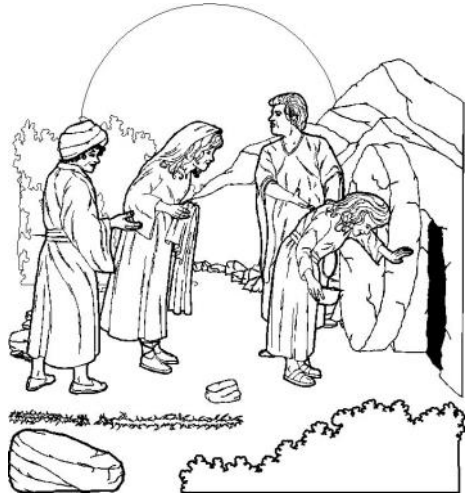
## North West Northants Pastorate:

**We welcome you to the Spring edition of The Good News!**

As rain, snow and ice subside, wellington boots turn into walking boots and eventually comfortable shoes. Snowdrops begin to make way for crocus and the crocus in turn are overtaken by daffodils, the weather lifts, the days get longer and the clocks move forward.

Thoughts turn to Spring and Easter; some will be wondering if holidays and breaks away will be possible and some will be wondering when our greatly missed community activities will take place again.

The regular services in our churches where we gather together seem long ago. The Community Café at Kilsby,



Poppies Coffee Shop at Creaton, Coffee Mornings at Crick and Lunch Club at Long Buckby among other things, waiting to come back to life; hopefully news of these soon.

Some will be thinking more deeply about the meaning of Easter and those events, which to us, seem far away and very long ago indeed.

Take a look inside...

See! For now the winter is past, the rains are over and gone; the flowers appear in the country-side; the time is coming when the birds will sing, and the turtle-dove's cooing will be heard in our land

Song of Songs 2:11-12 NEV

## Inside this Spring Issue

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Deadline for contributions to next issue: 16th May 2021

**Good News welcomes contributions from readers**, though publication is not guaranteed.

## Reflections From Our Minister

Here we are, after 12 months...

### Lenten Greetings to you all!

You may be strictly keeping to a Lenten Discipline (as I write we have yet to be on the first Sunday in Lent- your pancakes are still a recent memory and Easter seems a long way away).

It was just after the start of Lent 2020 and we had concluded two of our Lenten study sessions- working with the film *Les Miserables*- when the first Lock Down began.

As LD 1 and LD2 seem to merge in my mind's memory, we have been in lock down now for practically a year. Here we are, after 12 months... many of us have had our first vaccine some even both.

Never-the-less even two vaccines do not mean it is safe or advisable for any of us to resume social visits and mingling, let alone attending a communal act of worship in one place.

How grateful are you for your vaccine, a gift from the NHS?

If you feel able to, perhaps you might consider donating a nominal sum to the World Health Organisation /Unesco/ Christian Aid -for their Covid-19 Relief Funding- to help those around the world in less wealthy countries to get their vaccination-

We know that until the last of us has been vaccinated, we are all at risk. The figure I heard was that £15-£20 would be a possible gift of appreciation for your vaccination.

As I listen to our Synod evening prayers I am reminded that within our Northampton churches: Rev'd Samuel Sillunge and his wife and son; Rev'd Liz Adams her husband, son and mother in law to name just a few, continue to battle with the virus.



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## Reflections From Our Minister

...Oh, that we could be!

Rev'd Geoff Townsend's brother Michael died from the virus... and is there a person in the land whose life has not been touched by Covid tragedy?.

Being prevented from having the traditional farewells and being able to support one another, pushes grief into a place hitherto unexperienced .

Even as we call to mind the big losses, we are aware of many new things that have enriched our lives. Across the land, on-line and zoomed services have enabled us to enjoy bigger congregations, a hugely talented number of preachers and better attendance at meetings.

Families and friends have enjoyed chats and quizzes; crafters have encouraged one another and even exercise classes have been happening via the internet and TV. We are graced by God's presence in new ways.

Of course we feel alone and sometimes adrift and those of us living alone who are not in a support bubble, don't always appreciate people who complain about being stuck indoors with "just their family" ...Oh, that we could be!

The virtual prayer meetings and opportunities to share in worship across the world have been a blessing and we have enjoyed a new experience of Communion celebration- causing us to think back to what it is we actually are doing.



## Reflections From Our Minister

Hymn by John Campbell

John Campbell, a former Principal of Northern College, is a challenging hymn-writer, putting his own words to existing hymn tunes.

Here [Below] is one he wrote last Autumn. It is sung to the tune St Denio (Immortal Invisible). Perhaps we could add it to our list of hymns for up-coming services??

In your living may you know God's love and by your loving may you reflect Gods loving mercy.

Keep Safe,

Shalom,

Elizabeth.

### So Strangely Together

So strangely together,  
though each is alone,  
our voices sing singly  
yet blend round your throne.  
Your Spirit engulfs us  
wherever we are;  
you gather and bless us,  
those close and those far.

For now, in our worship,  
we'll meet and we'll share;  
all bask in your presence,  
all sharing in pray'r.  
We'll glimpse one another,  
hear voices we know,  
come close as one people  
let fellowship grow.

So, speak to us gathered  
and speak to each one,  
send comfort, send challenge,  
let fresh blessings run;  
unstopper our bottles  
of hope, faith and joy,  
replenish, renew us,  
each dark fear destroy.

Though phones and computers  
fall silent again  
your presence will linger  
to bless and defend,  
keep lively the mem'ry  
of time spend as one,  
to strengthen each household  
'til lock down is done.

John Campbell, 5/11/20 - former principal of Northern College,  
as England's second lock down got underway.

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## Long Buckby News

The need for meals at the Day Centre never stops!

### Flower Rota if the church reopens

The time we are going to reopen is still uncertain. If we want flowers in church in the next quarter we will consult with arrangers as appropriate

### Birthday Wishes

April

Don Bird

May

Diana Babb

James Faulkner

Richard Bignell

David Boucher

Mark Ellison



### Hope Centre

Please remember the collection box for the Hope Centre in Northampton. The need for meals at the Day Centre never stops!

### For Prayer

This quarter we asked to remember and pray for:

- Diseases such as measles meningitis and yellow fever will still kill hundreds of thousands. So many babies missing out on Vaccinations.
- The Minister and Elders of our churches..
- The suffering in our localities
- A vision that we can meet people who want to know about Jesus.

## Crick News

keeping busy with a variety of activities

I don't think any of us expected to be in another lockdown by this time in 2021, but here we are, keeping in touch through telephone and technology.

**Birthday Wishes** to Joan Saunders and Beth Stanley, whose birthdays fall in this magazine's timeline.

I'm sure I speak for everyone when I thank Andrew and Richard for their expertise, which enables us to meet, albeit at a distance, every other Sunday for a zoom service.

We are all well in Crick, and keeping busy with a variety of activities - reading, knitting, crochet, sewing, patchwork, online bridge games, and walks, very brisk walks on these recent cold mornings!

I am pleased to report that Joan is making excellent progress after her fall before Christmas, walking about indoors without the frame, and looking forward to warmer days and being able to walk outdoors.

**On a positive note**, we have almost all had our first dose of vaccine (some lucky people have had 2!), afternoons are drawing out nicely, snowdrops and crocus are out in the garden, and even a few brave daffodils are showing buds in sheltered corners.

Today's newspaper claims that schools will be back in early March, and restrictions will soon be relaxed. How we all hope that is true! Until it is, we all wish you health and happiness and hope that 'we'll meet again' before too long.

Stay cheerful, stay safe,

Jenny



## Creaton News

...so like all of you we have enjoyed joining in Zoom services

We are very sorry to have to report the passing of Mary Chambers. She was a wonderful and valued member of Creaton Church, and we will make further reference to her life in the next issue.

We only had few services in the church before we were locked down again, so like all of you we have enjoyed joining in Zoom services taken by Elizabeth.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Richard, Andrew and the readers who have made these services possible.

There are, of course people in the Creaton congregation who will be pleased to back in church as soon as lockdown ends.

This particularly applies to communion services.

Meanwhile, our thoughts and prayers to all members of the Pastorate, and may lockdown come soon.,

Margaret Anderson.





## Kilsby News

...keeping in touch with the rest of the congregation

We feel that it is unlikely we will be able to open until Easter that means the cafe is still shut...

We are keeping in touch with the rest of the congregation at the moment and we keep a check on the chapel about twice weekly...

Also we have a service via the email every week from Michael and Peggy which we enjoy very much..

that's all the news at the moment..

Regards,

Val.

On the road to Kilsby...

Did you know that the A361 road which terminates at Kilsby where it connects with the A5 runs all the way to Kilsby from Ilfracombe in North Devon?

That makes it the longest three numbered 'A' road in Britain.

So, if anyone asks you the way to Ilfracombe, tell them to, start from Kilsby, turn right out of the front door of the URC (everyone knows where that is), then turn right at the junction and just keep going...

If having travelled from Kilsby to Ilfracombe, finding yourself at the other end of the A361, turn left up Northfield Road and right onto Wilder Road you will find Ilfracombe URC, and if you are lucky, a 'Chatterbox Coffee Morning'...

**Preaching Diary March 2021 to May 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Long Buckby</b> All services at 11am unless	<b>Creaton</b> All services at 11am unless oth-
07/03/21	Pastorate Service of Holy Communion Via Zoom	Pastorate Service of Holy Communion Via Zoom
21/03/21	Pastorate Service Via Zoom	Pstorate Service Via Zoom
04/04/21	Easter Day Pastorate Service with Holy Communion Via Zoom	Easter Day Pastorate Service with Holy Communion Via Zoom
18/04/21	Pastorate Service Via Zoom	Pastorate Service Via Zoom

**Preaching Diary March 2021 to May 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Crick</b> All services at 11am unless otherwise stated	<b>Kilsby</b> All services at 11am unless otherwise stated
07/03/21	Pastorate Service of Holy Communion Via Zoom	Pastorate Service of Holy Communion Via Zoom
21/03/21	Pastorate Service Via Zoom	Pastorate Service Via Zoom
04/04/21	Easter Day Pastorate Service with Holy Communion Via Zoom	Easter Day Pastorate Service with Holy Communion Via Zoom
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## Wandering Minds

Mad dogs and chinese proverbs and pressed flowers...

**Have you noticed how this lockdown has made dogs of us all?**

We sniff around the house all day looking for food, we get told 'No!' if we get too close to strangers, and we all get very excited about car rides.

True! Let's hope we don't go barking mad!

Thanks to Jenny from Crick for that (strangely familiar feeling?) reflection.

**During a recent Bible Study with Michael and Peggy Bond; on reading Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV:**

'In your anger do not sin': Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

...my [the editors] mind wanders to a Chinese Proverb: "Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned."

...wandering or understanding? I am reminded...

"Not all those who wander are lost"

(J.R.R.Tolkien, The Riddle of Strider, The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, 1954.)

**From the context in which it was found, perhaps circa 1960;**

Once at a garden centre I found 'a flower pressing kit'.

My Grand Mother was a farmers wife and as such knew how to make ends meet, she made her own greeting cards using pressed flowers.

Many years later I found a beautiful example of her work and I remembered her words to me; "This is the day the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad in it"

The message inside the card read: Christ the Lord has risen today, Hallelujeh! Wishing you all a happy Easter, love from your mother xxx.

Many years later Granny Townsends message is remembered.



## The Story Behind the Hymn Amazing Grace

Contributed by Norman Chandler

This hymn has become popular in the last few years with the tune we now associate with it becoming a best seller when played by the Scots guards.

However, we do not sing all 13 verses these days and the original tune is lost.

The author John Newton had an eventful life. His father a ship owner took him to sea at the age of 11 and his father's plan was for him to become a plantation owner in the West Indies, however he was press ganged on board HMS Harwich and after attempting to escape he was clamped in irons and flogged in front of the crew of 350 men at the age of 19.

He was then placed on a slave ship and treated very harshly for the next three years. After being rescued by a friend of his father he made his way back to England on another slave ship the Greyhound.

The ship encountered a severe storm and was nearly wrecked. This incident changed Newton convincing him of God's grace and turning him to Christianity he avoided drinking, gambling, and profanity for the rest of his life.

Initially he did not challenge the slave trade but he ensured that his human cargo was well treated during the journey. When illness forced him to retire from the sea he became curator of Olney Church in Buckinghamshire and subsequently St Mary Woolchurch London where he met William Wiberforce and together they campaigned for the abolition of slavery.

### AMAZING GRACE

John Newton, 1779

A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me! I  
once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see.

## **Lectionary Readings**

March 2021

### **Third Sunday in Lent - March 7, 2021**

Exodus 20:1-17

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Psalm 19

### **Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 14, 2021**

Numbers 21:4-9

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 21, 2021**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Psalm 51:1-13

or Psalm 119:9-16

### **Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday - March 28, 2021**

The Liturgy of the Palms

Mark 11:1-11

or John 12:12-16

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

## Lectionary Readings

April 2021

### **Easter Day - April 4, 2021**

Acts 10:34-43

or Isaiah 25:6-9

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18

or Mark 16:1-8

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

### **Second Sunday of Easter - April 11, 2021**

Acts 4:32-35

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

Psalm 133

### **Third Sunday of Easter - April 28, 2021**

Acts 3:12-19

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Psalm 4

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 25, 2021**

Acts 4:5-12

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Psalm 23

## **Lectionary Readings**

May 2021

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 2, 2021**

Acts 8:26-40

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Psalm 22:24-30

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 9, 2021**

Acts 10:44-48

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

Psalm 98

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter - May 16 2020**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

Psalm 1

### **Day of Pentecost Whitsunday - May 23, 2021**

Acts 2:1-21

or Ezekiel 37:1-14

Romans 8:22-27

or Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

### **First Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday—May 30, 2021**

Isaiah 6:1-8

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Psalm 29

or Canticle 13 (or Canticle 2)



## Granny Townsend and the Chapel Outing

### Confusions of a Small Boy ...

I was very young, it was before I went to school. However, my memories of these events are quite clear and vivid...

It was no ordinary teatime at Granny Townsends house. There were paper doilies placed between the grated cheese and marrow chutney sandwiches and the plates upon which they sat.

No concession for my age, no orange squash for me. I had to drink tea from a cup and saucer like everyone else.

Then came the knock at the door, Mad Auntie Rossi\* went to answer, and in came the Reverend Thomason. Once greeted, tea began. He had come to discuss the chapel 'outing'; I immediately lost interest, my mind wandering off to more interesting things like slugs, snails and caterpillars...

That was until the Reverend Thomason mentioned Mount St Bernard Abbey.

Now, I was very keen on mountain rescue dogs and the mention St Bernards caught my attention. So, although I didn't know how the 'outing' came into things, I was very excited when I learned that we were going to see them!

The great day came; mother I set out from home. First the red bus to the town centre, then the green bus to Harpole. As we walked from the bus stop toward the chapel I saw the strangest thing. Not a red bus, or a green bus, but dark red and faded white coloured contraption with the upstairs missing!

My mother explained that the faded white colour was called "cream", this confused me because usually cream came out of a tin, like the peaches, and only then on a Sunday.

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\*More on 'Mad Auntie Rossi' another time.

## **Granny Townsend and the Chapel Outing**

As cultures clashed... I wondered where the kennels were...

Despite the lack of an upstairs, we climbed aboard where we found and sat next to Granny Townsend. I asked my mother about the strange bus. She told me that it was in fact a coach. Granny Townsend commented, "Not much of a coach; more like a charabanc!" my mother knew not to argue.

I had been told that Mount St Bernard Abbey was in Leicestershire and I was wondering which part of Harpole Leicestershire was in. It soon became clear that it wasn't in any part of Harpole and so naturally I went to sleep.

Upon being woken sometime later, I discovered that we had arrived. It looked like a very big house; I wondered where the kennels were...

At the door we were greeted by a nun. This did not surprise me in the least, I had been with my mum and dad when they went to see "The Sound of Music" so I already knew that nuns had something to do with mountains.

After being made to walk around the big house for some time, we attended a religious service. I couldn't understand at that point where the Reverend Thomason had disappeared to. Later Granny Townsend said that "he had been non-conforming"

Then came lunch in a room called the refectory. Because the nuns were not expecting me, I was wedged on a bench between my mother and Granny Townsend.

I was glad that no lunch was provided for me, as the bread and soup offered to the grownups looked a bit grim, and the nuns didn't seem to have much to say. Instead, mother had packed a special lunch just for me.

My special lunch contained something new, wrapped in green foil; chocolate coated minty biscuits! The nuns seemed unimpressed and said nothing...

## Granny Townsend and the Chapel Outing

The dangers of misunderstandings and crossed purposes...

As I munched, I wondered what 'Trappist' meant and learned that a minty chocolate biscuit was called a Viscount; although this did cause some confusion in later life when visiting state-ly homes on Sunday afternoons with mum and dad...

The next thing I remember is waking up back on the bus; "did I missed the bit where the nuns showed us the St Bernards?" I asked my mother.

She looked a bit confused and said "no, you were shown around with the rest of us" and to Granny Townsend she added, "he's a bit tired, it's been a long day for him".

So, I Had been taken to see the St Bernards! "You should have woken me up!" I said to mother. But I didn't really mind because I had discovered Viscounts and that had made up for it.

Also, I now knew, that mountain rescue dogs were somehow organised by nuns, which was their purpose, who lived at a big house in Leicestershire, which was not in Harpole. I might not have believed it, had I not been there to see for myself!

On the way home, mum and Granny Townsend were for some reason talking about the Cistercians. Granny Townsend grew lots of Cistercians in her Garden.

I liked the Cistercians because of the black and yellow caterpillars that crawled all over them...

Mum was surprised and wondered why I was so impressed with the Cistercians.

I reflect many years later...

"A little learning is a dangerous thing..."

(Alexander Pope, An Essay on Criticism, 1711)



## Dates for Your Diary

Moving Forward...

**Please note that our Zoomed Services will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays each month.**

March 7<sup>th</sup> Pastorate Service of Holy Communion

March 21<sup>st</sup> Pastorate Service

Summer Time (clocks forward) on March 28<sup>th</sup>-

April 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Day Pastorate Service with Holy Communion

April 18<sup>th</sup> Pastorate Service.

### **Focus on Holy Week**

At 7.00 p.m. Through Holy Week we will have Zoomed daily prayers. (If you want an invitation to this, please let me know.) minister@chezkemp.net

**Palm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March.** The one who comes in the name of the Lord

Mark 11: 1-11/ John 12:12-16

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March.** Extravagance for the poor.

Isaiah 42:1-9 and John 12:1-11

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March.** We wish to see Jesus

Isaiah 49: 1-7 and John 12:20-36

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March.** "Is it me?"

Isaiah 50: 4-9a and John 13:21-32

**Maundy Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April.** The heart of the journey

Isaiah 52:13- 53:12 and John 18: 1-19: 42

**Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.** "In the midst- who are you?"

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and John 18: 1- 19:42

**Holy Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.** The divine pause

Job 14: 1-14 and John 19:38-42

**Easter Day 4<sup>th</sup> April.** In the garden

Acts 10:34-43 and John 20: 1-18.

**Many Thanks to all Good News contributors and a special thanks to those that enable and facilitate our Zoom Services and meetings.**