

St Werburgh's Sunday Newsletter No.3 The lockdown continues and we are getting used to seeing Father Julian and our friends regularly on Facebook, Zoom and Whats App! Have you noticed that whilst we are staying in, nature is going out? The sound of birds, the blooming flowers and goats taking over Llandudno!! Spring is coming!

To the wonderful congregation of St Werburgh's,

Thank you...

We hope you are keeping well at this testing and challenging time. We have been delighted by the love shown for one another over the past couple of weeks despite not being able to gather as we normally do at church. It has been wonderful to be able to catch up with many of you whether by telephone, email, or using Zoom (just as Boris and his colleagues have!). The positive responses to the newsletter have been great and we know Father Julian misses spending time in your company dearly. The children are also missing disturbing your silence (as they continue to do to ours!) and are really enjoying keeping themselves busy by sharing some of the things they have been up to with you all through the newsletter and their own letters and artwork. It is clearly evident that Church is indeed wherever we are, whether that be in our homes, buying and delivering essential items, or clapping our key workers on our doorsteps. God's love of course cannot be isolated.

A plea to you all...

When we gather together in our church building to share in God's joy and love for us all, we all contribute in some way to the worship, but we also offer generous gifts that ensure that the Church is able to flourish and that the mission in the community continues to function effectively. We know that in response to our stewardship campaign many of you signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme (<https://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk/for-donors/>) through which the church receives a regular income with gift aid and without the need of one of us carrying out the time-consuming administration that finances require) but many of us still enjoy putting our envelopes in the collection plate. During these difficult times when we are not able to gather together, Church is missing out on this essential input, which at best means it is not able to be effective, and at worst could potentially put its future at risk. We are overtly aware that there are numerous struggles ahead and none of us of course want to see this happen, so we are asking that you think about how you can continue to play a role and provide the financial support that we know you normally do.

How you do this...

You can set up a **Standing Order** through your bank (telephone or online), or

Make a **Direct Payment** through you online banking

The PCC's bank details are:

Sort Code: 55-50-53

Account No: 64617637

For each of these methods we will be able to claim Gift Aid if you fill out one of these forms and send it to church.

If you would like any help or further guidance, please call

Michael: 07894 444426

Dorian: 07882 352875

Today's reading Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Keeping you busy 😊

Quick 10 Quiz – by Seth and Evie Clewes

Answer the questions and use the starting letter of each answer to form a well known word!!!

	Answer	First letter of answer
1. In the 2016 Olympic Games, in which sport did the USA win 30 gold medals?		
2. Is it a fruit or a vegetable?		
3. What is the secondary school in Spondon called?		
4. What is the biggest celebration in Christianity?		
5. What is the name of the cube that is twisted to align all the coloured tiles?		
6. What animal makes honey?		
7. What legendary animal resembles a horse with a single horn growing from its forehead?		
8. What disease causing softening of bones is caused by vitamin d deficiency?		
9. What is the first book of the Old Testament?		
10. Established in 1636, what is the oldest university in the USA?		

Answers on the last page!

Bake Off!

There's been something of an unofficial Bake Off across the congregation this week! Banana Bread being the choice bake, loaves have been made by Lizzie, Bea and Gabby, Bianca and Alexis, Caroline and Lily, Harriet with her Daddy. We have also heard that Edward made chocolate brownies, Matthew made a Victoria Sponge (with hand-made strawberry jam nonetheless!) and Shirley has made sausage rolls. What have you been baking this week? Let us know!

Flour has disappeared from the supermarket shelves, but Bianca and Alexis use a flour free recipe, here for you all to enjoy:

Ingredients

2 ripe bananas

2 eggs

90g whole oats

1 tsp baking soda

85g honey (or you can use syrup, agave, or any sweet alternative!)

Method:

Put the oven on 180c

Place bananas in food processor/blender and pulse till chunky.

Throw all ingredients in with the banana and blend till smooth

Evenly place in a lined loaf tin

Bake for 30-35 minutes until brown and a skewer comes out clean

Let cool completely until slicing. You can slice and freeze in bags to take out when you fancy a slice! Defrost on counter or in toaster.



Caroline and Lily's banana bread



Harriet ☺



Alexis made hers into cupcakes

A challenge!

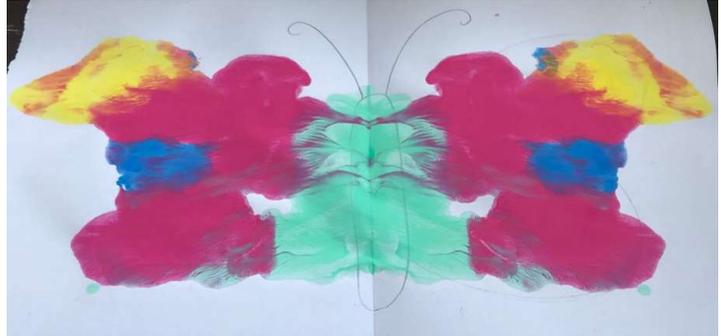
Edward has a challenge for anyone brave enough to take him on! How many pants can you put on in 15 seconds? Edward managed an amazing 10 pairs!!



Art Gallery



By Gabby



By Alexis



By Noah



By Dora



By Heidi, Henry and Jack



By Matthew

Fr Julian's Sermon

How have you been bearing up this week? From conversations on the phone and our own experience at the vicarage, it's pretty clear that family relations are beginning to strain and for those alone it may have been harder to dispel those negative voices in our heads. The expectation of what lock down would be like has for all of us hit the reality of what it is.

In our gospel passage today perhaps Matthew realised that Jesus didn't quite match what people were expecting. Quoting a passage from the prophet Zechariah, he intentionally leaves out that the king Israel is expecting will be triumphant and victorious. Instead he says 'your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey.' That is why when we celebrate the Eucharist I will say these words about Jesus. "He emptied himself of might and glory and set his face toward the fickle crowd, the cruel empire, the faithful despisers."

Jesus rides into a city in chaos and Matthew captures this anxiety, 'the whole city was in turmoil.' Matthew uses the Greek word 'seismos' (where we get the word seismic from), so he is actually saying that the people are in shock. Much like us at present. They have expectations about what Jesus was about to do. The one thing that I've learned about Jesus over the years is that he doesn't really care about our expectations. When I want him to be outspoken he remains silent. When I want him to be a pacifist he turns over tables in the temple. When I want him to be liberal he's conservative and when I want him to be conservative he's liberal.

Everyone was expecting, wanting, hoping Jesus to be something different. The promised king, the prophet, the magician and some, many, like us wanted Jesus to bring healing.

And they shout Hosanna ... it's strange the words that don't get translated in the bible. Hosanna is one of those words. I thought it was a cry of praise, like hallelujah, but Hosanna doesn't mean, "Hooray, Great job Jesus!!" No, hosanna is a lament, a cry of desperation. It's the cry of people who are frightened, who have no one and nothing left to rely on... hosanna might be our cry at this time...because Hosanna literally means, "Save us."

I'm guilty way too often of being part of that fickle crowd shouting my own hosannas when it suits me to do so, telling Jesus who he should be and the things that he should be saving me from and they are indeed many. Hosanna! Save me in my isolation. Hosanna! Save me and save my family from the virus affecting us badly. Save me from my incessant worrying. Save me from my self-centred insistence on being invulnerable, when unlike millions facing this situation we have access to resources. Save me from that voice in my own head that whispers, "I'm not up to this."

Such expectations have led me this week to place unfair expectations on others and to have unrealistic expectations of myself. Such expectations led to an angry phone call, led to many projected fears and countless hours incessantly worrying. And such expectations are rooted in my assumption that I am powerful and people like us should not be this

vulnerable. If there's one thing that's true about power it's that those who have it typically like to keep it and that is not possible for any of us at present.

In five days such expectations of power will lead this crowd to demand the execution of this innocent man to whom today they shout 'save us!'

If your cry this morning is "Hosanna!" You are at the centre of our prayer and know that in your vulnerability you are at the very heart of God's love. This Holy Week we must lay down our expectations like palm branches at the feet of one who simply comes in love for each and every one of us, without exception. Let us pray for all those in the NHS and public service who are bringing that love to the most vulnerable and let us be that love for each other.

No public services until further notice

BUT check out Fr J live
each Sunday morning at
10am!

Please regularly check the
church website and
Facebook for on-going
videos and updates.

Want to help?

We have joined up with
Derby Community Action –
please contact 01332
640000 or email
[covidsupport@community
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If you want to talk to the St
Werburgh team directly
please contact
stwhelps@gmail.com

Being careful, caring for all @ St Werburgh's

Seth and Evie's Quiz answers: Swimming, Tomato, West Park, Easter, Rubik's Cube, Bee, Unicorn, Ricketts, Genesis, Harvard. Word = St Werburgh