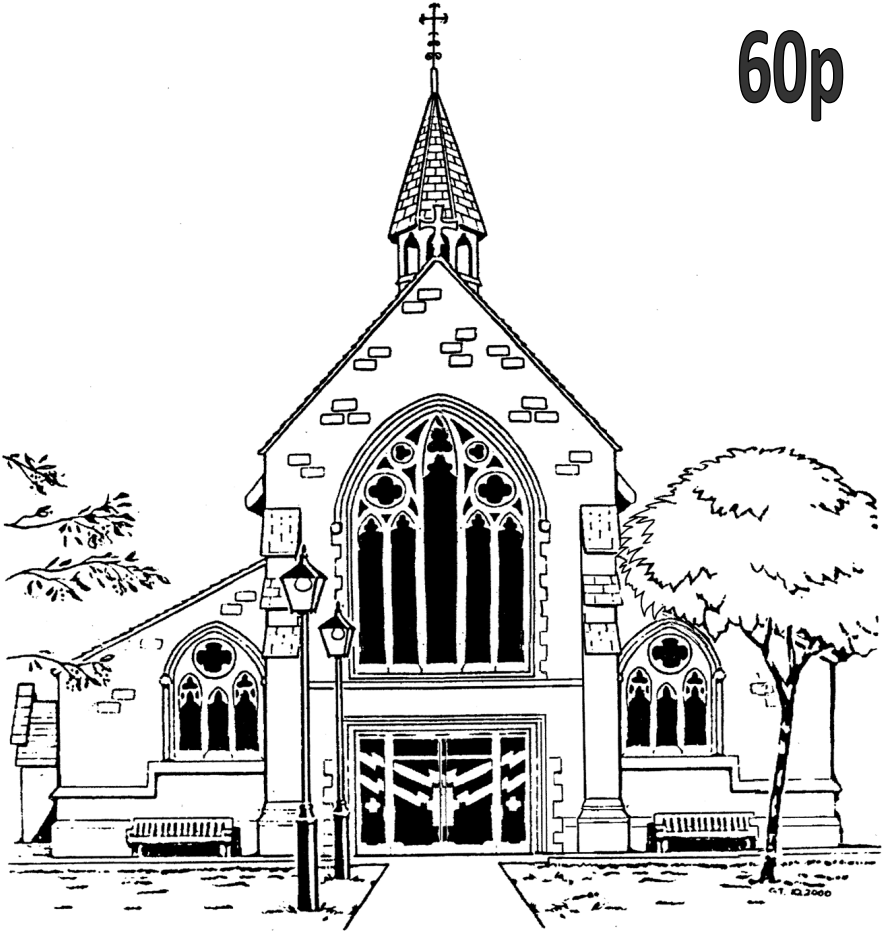


**SAINT
JOHN'S**
BOXMOOR

The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

60p



May 2020 Magazine



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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN

BOXMOOR

CLERGY

Vicar:	The Reverend Michael Macey Boxmoor Vicarage 10 Charles Street, HP1 1JH <i>Day off: Friday</i> Email: vicar@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	01442 243258
Associate Minister:	The Reverend Canon Dr Ruth Goatly 23 Beechfield Road, Boxmoor, HP1 1PP <i>Normally available: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday</i> Email: associateminister@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	07961 980158
Lay Reader:	Mrs Carole Lewis 61 River Park, Boxmoor, HP1 1RB <i>Day off: Wednesday</i> Email: lewicarole@gmail.com	01442 231414

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion (Every Sunday)
9.30 am	Main Morning Service: Week 1 - All Age Eucharist Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5 - Parish Eucharist Junior Church (3-11 Sunday School) in Church Hall (There is no Junior Church on 1st Sunday of month) Weeks 1 & 3 - Holy Baptism
11.30 am	Evening Services: Week 1 - BCP Holy Communion with hymns and sermon Week 2 - Choral Evensong Week 3 - Taizé Service Week 4 - Evensong and Benediction (at St. Francis) Week 5 - As announced
6.30 pm	

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Daily	Morning and Evening Prayer: 8.45 am - Morning Prayer (Daily - except Sundays) 9.30 am - Morning Worship (Thursday at St Stephen's, Chaulden) 5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (Mon/Tues/Thu/Fri at St John's) 5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (Wednesday at St Francis, Hammerfield)
Monday	7.30 pm - Holy Communion
Tuesday	9.30 am - Tiny Tots for under fives and parents including Refreshments - Service finishes by 11.00 am
Wednesday	10.30 am - Holy Communion (followed by coffee in church) (Prayers for Healing on the 4th Monday of each month (7.30pm during Holy Communion) and the 3rd Wednesday Morning of every other month (10 am Service of Prayer for Healing prior to the Holy Communion Service)

Enquiries concerning Thanksgivings, Baptisms and Weddings in the church office: Tuesdays from 6.30 pm to 7.15 pm (Please note during winter months 6.45 pm to 7.30 pm)

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SAINT
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The teas are open to everyone, but may be especially appreciated by

- ◆ *those who are living alone;*
- ◆ *those who have been bereaved; or*
- ◆ *any who are at a loose end on Thursday afternoons.*

The teas (for mutual support and friendship) are held in the Church Hall at St. John's, from 3:30pm, on 2nd Thursdays of most months, as:-

- ◆ *14th May)*
- ◆ *11th June) All dates currently*
- ◆ *9th July) postponed*

... Just come along.



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	Half Page	£80 per annum
	Quarter Page	£60 per annum



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To discuss your requirements or for further information, please contact Sally Bates, 01442 266912 or 07792 768236 or email: magazine@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER



Dear Friends,

It feels very strange sitting here in my home in St Albans, writing a letter for a Boxmoor Parish magazine that probably won't be printed in large numbers or distributed in the usual way.

I have lost count of the number of messages I have received in the last few weeks by email, text, or WhatsApp, that have begun with something like 'what strange times we are in!'. For those who are used to the freedom to come and go, or to choose where to go, these are indeed strange times. For those in families who suddenly are all together all the time, these are strange times. For those who are used to being on their own at home, these also are strange times. Different ways of living in a strange world. Each of us will be experiencing these times differently and elsewhere in the magazine there are some accounts of how some of the people in our Parish have coped or experienced this time of social isolation and separation.

Perhaps for Christians, strangest of all was that this time has spanned the preparation and celebration of Easter. We could not join in our usual pattern of preparation services and meditations. We had to find new ways of celebrating Easter. There were many who logged on to services that were streamed from churches and cathedrals, read and listened to recordings on our website, but somehow it could not be the same without the presence and voices of each other. Yet, as the Queen reminded us in her Easter broadcast, Easter was not cancelled and "The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this".

I was thinking how much we need to know that hope in these strange times, when on Easter Monday the first of a week of Reflections for Easter Week popped into my inbox. It came from St Paul's Cathedral in which Paula Gooder reflected on the experiences of the disciples who at first struggled to grasp the joy of resurrection because in their experience "the world was as awful as it had ever been..... They expected the resurrection to transform the world and they thought that it hadn't. What they needed to learn was how to live the resurrection, not as they expected in a world made suddenly easy and peaceful, but in a world fractured by heartache and sorrow".

We will still be in Easter Season when this magazine is published and as I write it looks like we will still be grappling with the challenges of measures to help keep us safe from COVID-19. We will still be living in a hurting and grieving world. But I take heart from words at the end of that Easter Monday reflection: "The risen Christ comes to us as he has always come, bringing into our broken, grieving world the gentle but persistent reminder that, in the words of Desmond Tutu: 'Good is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.'

And I will hold on to the fact that this is true and look forward to the time when we are able to celebrate it again together.

With best wishes,

Ruth

BOOK REVIEW

Anxious Times – positive help for those facing uncertainty

By Carmel Thomason, BRF, £4.99

A book of 24 undated reflections drawing on a range of relevant Bible passages to offer genuine hope and encouragement in anxious times. Encompassing the very human emotions of fear and anxiety, the reflections encourage us to draw comfort and strength from God's Word even in those times when He seems silent to us. This book acknowledges that trust and hope in God's goodness doesn't always come easily, but when embraced we gain the strength to face our fear with courage and confidence.



PARISH DIARY FOR MAY 2020

**ALL PUBLIC ACTS OF WORSHIP ARE SUSPENDED WITHIN THE PARISH
BY ORDER OF THE ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY AND YORK
& OUR CHURCHES ARE SHUT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
ALL CHURCH CLUBS AND GROUPS ARE ALSO SUSPENDED.**

*Enquiries regarding baptisms, weddings, or marriage blessings are
Always welcome.
Please contact the Vicar*

*Morning and Evening Prayer are said Daily for the Life of the Parish,
currently by the Vicar at the Vicarage.*

Worship Resources during pandemic whilst we cannot meet are being made
available at www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/suspended-services-resources

Fri 1 May Sts Philip and James, Apostles

Sun 3 May Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Parish Eucharist

The Vicarage

10.00am St Albans Abbey Live Streamed Service

<https://www.youtube.com/user/stalbanscathedral>

7.00pm Light a Candle to share the Light of Christ

Homes

Sun 10 May Feast of St John the Evangelist - Patronal Saint of the Parish

9.30am Patronal Parish Eucharist

The Vicarage

10.00am St Albans Abbey Live Streamed Service

<https://www.youtube.com/user/stalbanscathedral>

7.00pm Light a Candle to share the Light of Christ

Homes

Thurs 14 May St Matthias, Apostle St Matthias, Apostle

Cont'd.....

Sun 17 May Sixth Sunday of Easter
9.30am Parish Eucharist *The Vicarage*

10.00am St Albans Abbey Live Streamed Service
<https://www.youtube.com/user/stalbanscathedral>

7.00pm Light a Candle to share the Light of Christ *Homes*

Thurs 21 May THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
8.00pm Festal Eucharist *The Vicarage*

Sun 24 May Seventh Sunday of Easter
9.30am Parish Eucharist *The Vicarage*

10.00am St Albans Abbey Live Streamed Service
<https://www.youtube.com/user/stalbanscathedral>

7.00pm Light a Candle to share the Light of Christ *Homes*

Sun 31 May PENTECOST
9.30am Festal Parish Eucharist *The Vicarage*

10.00am St Albans Abbey Live Streamed Service
<https://www.youtube.com/user/stalbanscathedral>

7.00pm Light a Candle to share the Light of Christ *Homes*



TAKE COMFORT

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

³ Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you...

⁹ If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
¹⁰ no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;...

¹⁴ "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honour him.

¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

PCC Meeting 10 March 2020

The PCC met on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 8.00 pm in St John's church hall. Fifteen members were present, apologies having been received from the absentees.

Youth Provision/Club

The Vicar reported that the meeting with the fundraiser had been aborted due to illness and would be rearranged. He would be meeting again with South Hill Church the following day. The youth provision volunteer group from the PCC had yet to meet. The Vicar said he hoped people were praying for this project.

Finance Report

The Financial Accounts for St John's Boxmoor and St Francis Hammerfield to 31 December 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Chris Angell said that the Independent Examiner, Roger Taylor would have examined them by the APCM.

Approval of the Financial Accounts for 2019 to be presented at the APCM for St John's Boxmoor and St Francis Hammerfield was proposed by Job Rombout, seconded by Lorraine Ioannou and unanimously accepted by the PCC.

Significant thanks from the PCC were expressed to Chris Angell and Jo Fisher.

Legacy Giving

Job Rombout reported that he and Trevor Standen had attended lectures about legacy giving and he felt it was a long-term way of finding funds. He said that the Church of England have produced a PCC Legacy Toolkit which can be used to encourage people to leave the church a legacy in their will. The materials are free of charge and include posters and 300 leaflets. **All PCC members were in favour of moving forward with Legacy Giving.**

Map/Growing Church

The Vicar said there was nothing new to report. He said the mission statistics submitted show that we are growing and that he would circulate the graphs with minutes. Although the Electoral Roll has decreased the worshipping community has grown.

Safeguarding update

In her absence Marian Davies, the Safeguarding Officer had circulated a report stating that the latest advice from the Diocese regarding safeguarding training is that all welcomers, refreshment servers, servers and choir members should do the basic Awareness course, Module CO. Cont'd.....

To enable this, she is sending the link for this course to all those who are required to take it, who are on email and asking them to email her their certificate when they have completed the training. It was agreed to ask Marian to investigate enabling the church technology to be made available to those who needed to do the online module but have not means to access it.

Committees Terms of Reference

No more Terms of Reference had been received. Updated Worship Committee Terms of Reference are still outstanding.

The Big Conversation

The Vicar reported that at the Rural Dean's residential meeting in February he was told that this was really about a 'A Church for all ages' – a Church for the future and the present. He said that the Bishop would be visiting on Harvest Sunday although this was still to be confirmed. The Vicar asked, "What does a 'Church for all ages' feel like?" It was agreed that this would be a discussion at the next PCC meeting.

Deep Cleaning of St John's Church Hall

It was reported that the oven and hood have been deep cleaned by a contractor. The floor has been cleaned twice by Job Rombout and the walls and ceiling painted by Mark Harbour and Andy Fisher. It was also reported that the kitchen now has a 5-star food hygiene rating. Thanks were expressed to all involved with the cleaning.

Reports

Reports from the Churchwardens', St Francis and various PCC Committees were received. The minutes of the PCC meeting on 21 January 2020 and the Standing Committee Meeting on the 10 February 2020 were agreed as true records and therefore signed by the Chairman.

Any other business

Teenager attendance in church

Jo Fisher said that she would welcome ideas to support the 13-15 age group in church. She had suggested that they might like to be helpers. It was suggested that maybe they could be Servers or indeed to ask them what they would like to do.

Cont'd.....

PCC Meeting 10 March 2020 - Cont'd...

APCM

The Vicar reminded the PCC of the APCM Sunday 26 April 2020 at 9.30am in St John's Church and thanked the outgoing PCC members. It was agreed to keep the same number of lay PCC members (15) despite the lower Electoral Roll membership.

Philippa Graham
PCC Honorary Secretary
pccsecretary@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

Finances during "Lockdown"

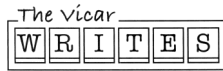
First of all a huge "Thank You" to all our Planned Givers who are managing to continue giving in these difficult times. With no income from our Halls, Fees, Coffee or the Plate at services and Fundraising well nigh impossible we are reliant on Planned Giving to meet our unavoidable costs. My cash-flow forecast suggests June will be critical when we must pay our annual insurance premiums for our three churches (fabric, contents and engineering - essentially the heating systems). Ordinarily we would have bumper takings over Easter and the Summer Fayre or Flower Festival to help us; but not so this year. I realise some of you will be struggling to make your personal finances balance, but, if you normally give via cheques, Envelopes or the Plate and can still offer some giving, please consider setting up a Standing Order or joining the Parish Giving Scheme (who tell me they remain open for new and existing giving). Failing that the letterbox at St John's (in the Office wall next to the Hall entrance) is regularly checked for envelopes should your daily exercise take you that way.

As ever I'm happy to help with forms etc. - 01442 244158.

Chris Angell, Parish Treasurer.

Photos below are from Chris Angell who took them on Easter Sunday of the decorated cross at St John's after Pat and himself had added their contribution. Given current exercise restrictions they decided their pilgrimage this year would have to be Alexandra Road to St John's rather than St John's Church to St Alban's Abbey!





Coronavirus – Covid-19

By the time you read this we will be in our second month of lockdown. No Public Worship has been offered in our churches since Tuesday 17 March with only limited private Acts of Worship offered until Tuesday 24 March. During that one week many people found great solace and comfort from being able to come into St John's and offer their prayers. But the closure of our buildings does not mean we, the Church, are not active. It has been incredibly heart-warming to hear of so many wonderful ways in which we, part of the body of Christ in this place, have been able to love, care-for, and service our neighbours. Thank you for all the compassion and kindness which is being shown.

Although we are not able to worship together in our churches I hope you are finding the resources on the Parish Website helpful. I have taken the decision not to stream Services each week for many reasons but if you want to join a Service via YouTube or Facebook please either join St Albans Abbey or search www.achurchnearyou.com for a fuller listing. Services are also being held on TV and the Radio. By the time you read this recordings of Morning and Evening Prayer, along with the texts, will be available on our website. There will be space for you to read the daily scripture passages and then join in the remainder of the service – I hope this will be helpful to some.

Of course we have no-idea how many people from the Parish have been infected. The probability is that some will have died from the virus, and we pray for them and their families. I know of a handful of cases where members have been hospitalised by the virus but I'm delighted to say they are well on the road to recovery. When we are able to gather again we shall give thanks for their return to health and remember those who have died. We will also remember with thanksgiving the herculean effort our health professionals and other key-workers are putting in at this time.

The 'new normal' of isolation and lockdown has been made tolerable (even enjoyable for some) thanks to the good weather and being able to get out into our gardens – if you have one. I hope it continues.

Until we meet again I will continue to write to you each week and, with Ruth and Carole, I remain just a phone call or email away. Please let us know if there is anything you would like us to pray about for you. Please let us know if you are in any kind of need. We have a list of able volunteers who are waiting to be used to collect shopping/medication/etc.

Love and prayers to you all.

Holy Week and Easter

We all experienced a very different Holy Week and Easter this year. For many it might still feel like we are in the limbo of Holy Saturday where nothing is normal and we are coming to terms with what is happening. It was a privilege to offer the Holy Eucharist on your behalf on Maundy Thursday and spend over an hour kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament praying for you and the world. The abandonment Christ must have felt on the Cross felt very real to me on Good Friday as we were forced to witness and remember in isolation. But for me the joy of proclaiming the Resurrection on Easter day with my children ringing bells and dancing to the hymns showed the new life Christ enabled through his victory over sin and death. The Easter message can never be silenced and I hope you have been able to experience some of the joy of Easter this year.

Thank you to all who have been decorating the Cross outside St John's. It will remain up until the end of May so please keep decorating it – such a simple way to show to the wider parish the life and joy of Christ risen from the dead.

Prayer: Lent Course and Thy Kingdom Come

Sadly the Lent Course was cut short due to the restrictions imposed. We are currently minded to start it again when the restrictions are lifted, but until we know when and what we are dealing with I cannot offer you a firm commitment.

As I understand it, the Archbishops' initiative *Thy Kingdom Come* will still happen between Ascension Day and Pentecost (21-31 May). Special resources will be available for download from our website. If you require hard-copy please let me or your phone-buddy know. I hope you will all be able to commit yourselves to some act of prayer during that week – no matter how big or small. Sadly the great celebrations have been suspended for obvious reasons.

Parish Meetings

As lockdown seems set to last for a while we will need to do things differently but the governance of the Parish still needs to continue. Over the coming weeks and months those committees that need to meet will do so via Zoom. Those committees which do not need to meet will be suspended for the time being. More details will emerge over the course of the month.

Social Events

One of the fundamental pillars of Christianity is that our faith is relational. Jesus calls us to follow him; he teaches us to call God 'Father'; the Spirit lives and moves within us and among us. Since we are not able to meet with people other than from our own households, and understanding the importance of being in relationship with others, we will be hosting a Coffee Morning each Wednesday at 11.00am and a Happy Hour drinks evening at 8.15pm each Thursday evening. If you would like to join, please contact me and I'll send you the required link.

APCM

The APCM was not able to take place on 26 April as was previously advertised. New guidance has been issued by the Bishop but I will wait until we know more about the lifting of restrictions until publicising a new date. Until the APCM everyone who holds an Office in the church or is a council or synod member remains in post. Thank you to all our elected members and officers for all you are doing during these difficult times.

MASJ Music Festival – 1-3 May 2020

For obvious reasons the MASJ Music Festival has been cancelled along with the Series of Lunchtime Concerts that were due to commence in May.

Badly Dancing Vicar: You may have seen on Facebook that I have been dancing with my eldest daughter every Sunday morning after the Eucharist. It started when Sophie was dancing to the Macarena. A joy to watch but out of time. I decided to join her to help with timing. I am not a dancer! Emma took some pics without me noticing and put them on Facebook. The response was joyous. People sent in suggested songs imploring us to dance again. So... we have each Sunday, after the Eucharist. I am trying to put these on the Parish Facebook page, but if I fail (as I'm no techno-expert) please have a look on my personal page. Apparently they have made a lot of people smile!!!





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- Berkhamsted Good Neighbours
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- Carers Support
- COGs Dementia Clubs
- Hertswise Dementia Support
- Handyperson
- Information & Signposting
- Tea & Chat Clubs
- Telephone Befriending
- Walking Football

For more information please call **01442 259049**
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Neighbourhood Watch and Age UK Dacorum are the founder members of this "Good Neighbours" Scheme in Boxmoor.

Time of distress

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

*By kind permission of Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist
Conference.*

HALLS FOR HIRE

ST JOHN'S HALL - Well equipped hall suitable for use by special interest groups, clubs and societies. Ideal for family parties and special occasions. Please contact Hall Bookings Secretary on 07939 226977 or email: hallbookings@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk for further information and availability.

ST STEPHEN'S HALL, CHAULDEN - (opposite Tudor Rose) - Sunny Hall with tiled floor suitable for dancing and exercise groups as well as being ideal for children's parties. Please contact Jean on 01442 257023 for further information and availability.

ST FRANCIS HALL, HAMMERFIELD - Well equipped hall suitable for use by special interest groups, clubs and societies. Ideal for family parties and special occasions. Please contact Hall Bookings Secretary by email: stfranchishallbookings@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk for further information and availability. More urgent queries can be handled by leaving a message on Paul Davies mobile phone: 07802 442908



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Reflections during Lockdown from members of our Church Family

Coping with Lockdown

I am very fortunate in that I don't have to go out to work. In fact, I don't have to do any work to earn an income as I am a pensioner and well provided for financially.

In normal (retired) life I spend most of my waking hours on music: typically singing in five different choirs (including the church choir), rehearsing each week and performing at least once a week on average. It is proving difficult to keep this going but we are trying to meet on-line and keep our voices exercised even if synchronising sounds from multiple sources is proving impossible. My other musical pursuit is playing church organ music. This is continuing and in some ways it is more pleasurable since I can play whatever I want, as opposed to playing what is prescribed for upcoming services! I am also continuing with organ lessons thanks to the wonders of video-conferencing software. One person playing an instrument works fine!

I also like walking (having completed many long distance footpaths in the last few years). Marian and I are trying to do a four or five mile walk every other day now. I have also gotten back on my bike to help keep me fit (and sane!)

I am trying to keep in touch with friends and family members (especially those who are elderly or vulnerable) either by phone or email, if not by video-conferencing.

Paul Davies

Like everyone I suppose, I am feeling rather "cut adrift ". The usual anchors in life are not there and I have been looking for things to hang onto.

Family are communicating more than usual. It's been lovely hearing from old friends, some not seen for years.

Having the church newsletter, the Sunday readings, the sermon and Mike's letter, has provided an anchor. As has keeping in touch through Ruth's buddy scheme.

I have also downloaded the Church of England's "Guidance on Spiritual Communion and Coronavirus" which I have been using.

Globally the News is appalling but being depressed helps nobody, so I have upped the chocolate intake and thank God for my family and friends.

Marian Davies

Lockdown!

Whoever could have imagined it! What word can describe the times we live in.

Unprecedented. Strange. Surreal. Difficult. Unreal. Extraordinary.

Whatever word we use, we just have to get used to this experience and find ways of coping and getting through each day.

My first reactions when we realised we were in lockdown, were quite positive. I no longer had to get through my busy daily schedule and keep looking at my watch to see where I should be or what I should be doing. TIME. What a wonderful gift! But after only a few days the reality kicked in. What day of the week was it? Every day seemed the same. Then it was Sunday and that was the worst of all.

For those of us who have gone to church on a Sunday all our lives this was a difficult experience to cope with, especially with Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter looming. So, what could we do?. We must become different people and change our old ways.

For those of us lucky enough to have access to modern technology we soon realised what wonderful resources are available for prayer, meditation and worship. Peter and I have found Morning Prayer and Compline especially helpful. For the first time in a number of years we are praying together! We enjoyed the Sunday service from the garden of St. Alban's cathedral, and the sermon was particularly helpful. *The sick woman in the crowd only had to touch Jesus's garment and she was healed!*

But most of all, I have valued my telephone conversations with church friends. It was an excellent idea to send out the names and phone numbers of people in the congregation with whom we could get in touch. Instead of a quick "hello" and "how are you" after the church service, we were able to engage in a real conversations and share our thoughts and concerns.

Cont'd...

Finally, my neighbours. I live in a close community where we often meet up and celebrate events together. A few clever people set up an App so that we can talk to each other and share needs. "Has anyone got any jigsaws?" This resulted in several being left on doorsteps for collection. "Does anyone want any toilet rolls? I have just been to COSTCO and bought a big box". Hard to believe this is happening.

But we are in for the long haul and we must continue to improve our caring and communication skills and be very aware of problems that may arise. At the end of it all I believe we shall come out of this crisis much better people.;

Jean Garner

In this surreal and worrying time,
I look around and see nature at its glorious best,
all the beautiful and many coloured flowers and blossoms,
I hear the lovely bird songs
and I count my many blessings.

Although I miss very much going to church,
our services and a feeling of spiritual wellbeing and peace,
the additional camaraderie we share,
how we look out for each other with personal contact,
I take great comfort in the fact
that I am so lucky to have this "extended family".

Although we are not together in church,
especially at this significant time in our Christian calendar,
we can still have a "togetherness" in our own homes,
thinking of and praying for each other
in ours and the wider community, and the whole world.

Keep well, keep strong, keep faith.

Blessings during this season of Easter and always,

as ever,

Yvonne Laidlaw

WOW !!! WOW!!! WOW!!!

Janet & Ian Diary from Home.

Did not expect to be confined to house like this in our lifetime.

We are very lucky in that we have a reasonable sized garden so can get outside without having to go far. We have done some very important garden tidying after the winter but wish it was a bit warmer!!! The sunshine has been lovely though.

Our main clear up has been the office. Having time to get rid of so much unnecessary paperwork accumulated over a great deal of time. Not very exciting but satisfying.

We miss our Church greatly but are keeping in touch by phone with many church friends and exchanging ideas on where and how to get supplies safely and offering help if needed. Of course prayers every day for everyone to come through this time healthy and safely. As we have been isolated for two weeks now because of Ian's heart condition we were worried about shopping but were lucky to get a priority shopping slot with Sainsbury's which is working well for us at the moment.

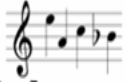
Thank you to Mike for his very welcome "letters from the Vicar" and pleased to see that he is feeling well again. We have watched the services from the Abbey which have been very welcome. I have also tuned in to Worcester Cathedral and Dean Peter's services there, this is because of the connection with Mark who you may know is a chorister there. Also picked up a lovely prayer time with Alison from St Pauls Langleybury. Now following the Stations of the Cross on a daily basis through this sad time. Having walked the Via Dolorosa it is very sobering to follow Christ's journey and visualise his suffering.

It has been very hard for us knowing Sheena and Tony are now so far away but happily for them Ian has been sent home from the Navy and is staying with them at least until May. Mark is still living in Tring and has been in constant touch with us. We are also on Skype with both Sheena & Tony and Karen & Ian and the family.

We are learning very fast about all the modern technologies that are out there. Trying Skype, Zoom and now House party enabling us to see each other which is very comforting. Can't believe how long it will be before seeing the family for real. Wishing all our Church friends everywhere a safe time through this terrible situation that we find ourselves in. God Bless and keep you all safe.

With Love from Janet & Ian

MUSIC AT 'Music Percentage Club Update'



Congratulations to our March Draw Winners;

ST JOHN'S
a community project

Garth Bridgwood 1st £15

Gina Harbour 2nd £8

Catherine Holness 3rd £4

If you know of someone who would be interested in joining the Music Percentage Club and supporting Music at St John's in this way there are forms in church or please contact Mark Harbour on 01582 841019 or see him in church.

Mark Harbour - on behalf of MASJ

Reflections during Lockdown from members of our Church Family - cont'd...

It has been a very hard week. I'm all too aware that the lockdown, loss of jobs, the fantastic efforts of the NHS will only get us to the lifeboat, there is no dry land anywhere. I know too that God made the land and the sea.

I don't have anything for the magazine but my Easter branch.



I am continuing through Lent as best I can. I receive daily prayers and readings from a friend who is an elderly clergyman. That informal prayer group is reading the Book of Job right now. I'm reading The Decameron instead but I think my friend doesn't approve. It's made me realise that I need a large print edition of BCP!

I also follow an online ministry as usual, Pastor Joseph Prince. He is in Singapore and has a global following. I receive the word through his ministry each morning. It's quite a different flavour to the C of E!

I will of course follow the services streamed by the C of E on Palm Sunday and through Holy Week.

I find the closure of the church at this time of crisis to be deeply upsetting. As we isolate socially we are all experiencing a loneliness and separation. I'm aware that was the case always for many elderly and disabled people. I help where I can.

Kind regards Sally Maslen

JUNE 2020 EDITION - PRICE 60p

Please note the deadline for articles for the next edition of the magazine is **Sunday, 3rd May.**

You can e-mail direct to **magazine@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk** or leave articles in magazine pigeonhole or deliver direct to 27 Beechfield Road. ***Please note any articles sent by email should be in A5 format (MS Word or MS Publisher preferred).*** Thank you. Sally Bates, Editor, Tel No. 266912 or Mobile 07792 768236.

PLEASE NOTE



Website for St John’s Boxmoor is:



www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

E-mail: office@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

Website for Music at St John’s is <http://masj.org.uk>

Facebook Page: St Johns Church, Boxmoor

NEWSLETTER: If you would like to receive a copy of the weekly Newsletter by e-mail, please contact Alan Munford - alan.munford@btinternet.com with your e-mail address and he will arrange to send it to you.

Please send any items for inclusion in the Newsletter to the Parish Office at the email address: newsletter@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk

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TWO SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

May 2020 marks two special anniversaries in the history of St John's. The first commemorates the dedication of the first church on the site 190 years ago, while the second is the bicentenary of the birth of the vicar who was responsible for the building of the present church we know and love so well.

By the early 19th century the population of Hemel Hempstead was growing rapidly and at the end of the 1820s it was resolved to build a Chapel of Ease in Boxmoor due to insufficient accommodation in the mother church of St. Mary in the High Street. A site was chosen on a tract of open pasture land, which the trustees of the Boxmoor Trust agreed to sell under the Church Buildings Act for £71. The White family, who lived in a house called The Lawns in Corner Hall, appear to have borne the major cost of the building, which was consecrated on Tuesday, 25 May 1830. The small chapel was built of brick. It was equal in size to the width of the present Nave, but only half its length. Heated by only one stove, the chapel could accommodate a congregation of 400 people. The Reverend William Jennings Hamilton MA was the first Perpetual Curate appointed by the Vicar of Hemel Hempstead.

We do have several artefacts from the Chapel of Ease which can be seen in our present church building. In the Children's Room there is a marble tablet which records it has been "erected by the family and friends as a tribute of respect to the memory of Mr Thomas Reynolds, late of the Fishery, Boxmoor, Herts, and formerly of Prescott Street, London, who died December 31st, 1844". (Fishery House was his home in Old Fishery Lane).

In the original chapel was a three light (panel) East Window showing the Ascension. When the new chancel was built in 1868 this window was incorporated into a larger five light east window with twenty three tracery lights which include a rose window. It is also thought that the stained glass window showing Jesus blessing the children situated on the north wall of the sanctuary came from the baptistry of the 1830 chapel.

Boxmoor became a separate Parish in 1844 and just over twenty years later the then incumbent, The Reverend Alfred Richings proposed building a larger church.

Alfred Cornelius Richings, who was born on 9 May 1820 at Mancetter, near Atherstone, Warwickshire, was the youngest son of Benjamin Richings and his wife Harriet, nee Goodacre of Ullesthorpe Hall, Leicestershire. The Reverend Benjamin Richings was the incumbent of Mancetter for 50 years. Alfred was educated at Christ's College, Cambridge and ordained priest in 1845 by the Bishop of cont'd.

Worcester.

He served several curacies, among them at Bath Abbey, and was Vicar at St Matthew's Church, Leeds, where he was instrumental in building the fine parish church. He became Rector of Hawridge in Buckinghamshire and exchanged livings with the Reverend Henry Lister who was Perpetual Curate at St John's from 1845 to 1865. Instituted Perpetual Curate on 14 October 1865 he became the first Vicar in 1868 when Boxmoor became a vicarage under the provisions of an Act of Parliament which abolished the position of Perpetual Curates. Alfred Richings married firstly Susan Margaret Oglander of Fairlee, Isle of Wight on 21 September 1854 at St Mildred's Church, Whippingham, the parish church of Osborne House, Queen Victoria's residence on the Isle of Wight. They had an only child, a son, Alfred Richard Cornelius, who died unmarried in 1914. Susan died in 1885 at the age of 67 and there is a memorial window to her in the Choir Room. His second marriage was in the 1890s to Eliza Prinkard, a widow who was one of his parishioners.

In less than two years The Reverend Richings proposed rebuilding the chapel into a much larger church. Designed by the eminent architect, Norman Shaw, the building was undertaken in two stages: first, the Chancel and chancel aisles were constructed and used in conjunction with the existing chapel, which was replaced with a longer Nave and side aisles in the second stage. This was necessary as it took seven years of fund raising to cover the cost of £4800 for the building work. Seating 700 people the new church was consecrated on Easter Tuesday, 7 April 1874 by the Bishop of Rochester. The West end was further extended in 1893.

When he first became incumbent Alfred Richings lived in a house called The Hollies situated next to "The Three Blackbirds", now the site of St Mary and St Joseph's Parish Centre, before building a vicarage at his own expense in Heath Lane, also designed by Norman Shaw, and which was demolished in the 1960s. The houses in Heath Brow are on the site. He improved and extended St John's Infants School, then at the bottom of Cowper Road, and the Parish Rooms, then in Horsecroft Road, now a social club. He was an author of a volume of poems, The Church's Holy Year, pamphlets and religious articles. He died at the West Cliff Hotel, in Folkestone on 29 August 1899 aged 79 years. Two of his nephews conducted his funeral at St John's on Friday 1 September 1899. By March 1900 the stained glass West Window depicting the story of St John had been installed as a memorial to Alfred Richings. Hemel Hempstead Gazette regarded this as "a beautiful window which is looked upon as a great improvement".

Cont'd...

This is certainly an appropriate time to give thanks for the many people, both clergy and lay, who have served the church in Boxmoor with dedication and love over the last 190 years.

Graham Gibbs

Loneliness at the Virtual Chelsea Flower Show, 19th – 23rd May

All sorts of themes are chosen for the Chelsea Flower Show, but this year's theme turned out to be scarily appropriate for the Spring of 2020: loneliness and mental health.

For, according to Sue Briggs, RHS Director General, "many feel they need gardening in their life now more than ever before, for their mental and physical wellbeing during this national emergency."

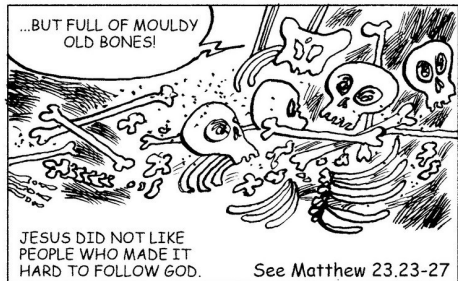
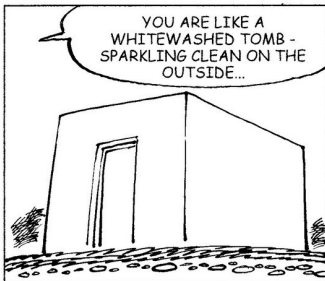
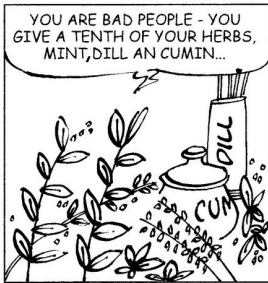
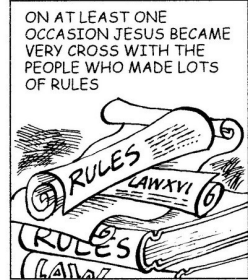
Writing on RHS website (www.rhs.org.uk), Sue Briggs says: "This applies to everyone from those who are having to self-isolate to families planning, maybe for the first time, to grow their own food."

And so, "for these reasons, and to do more to support the industry, the RHS will create a Virtual RHS Chelsea Flower Show, to celebrate our great horticultural industry and gardening heritage." The Virtual Show will run from Tuesday 19th May to Saturday 23rd May.

Guy Barker, chief horticulturalist at the RHS said: "Nurturing plants can make you less lonely and release you from troubles."



"Some tough talking"



SMILE-LINES

Parental excuses

These are actual 'excuse notes' from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):

- ~ My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.
- ~ Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.
- ~ Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.
- ~ Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.
- ~ John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
- ~ Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.
- ~ Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.
- ~ Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.
- ~ Please excuse Ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.
- ~ Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.
- ~ Irving was absent yesterday because he missed his bust.
- ~ Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.
- ~ I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wear.
- ~ Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.
- ~ Sally won't be in school a week from Friday. We have to attend her funeral.
- ~ Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.

Tim Lenton looks back on a great lady.

Florence Nightingale – the founder of modern nursing

Florence Nightingale was born 200 years ago, on 12th May 1820. Best known as the Lady with the Lamp who saved many lives in the hospitals of the Crimean War, she was also a social reformer, a statistician and the founder of modern nursing.

She was named after the Italian city of her birth, but the family moved back to England the following year, and she was brought up in Derbyshire. Here – and elsewhere – she had several experiences that she believed were calls from God to devote her life to the service of others.

She never married, but among her several close friends was Sidney Herbert, who became Secretary of War and helped to make her work in the Crimea possible. Some claim that she reduced the death rate in hospitals there from 42% to 2%. She introduced hand-washing and other hygiene improvements, but she never claimed personal credit for reducing the death rate.

Her work inspired nurses in the American Civil War, and in 1883 she became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross. In 1907, she was the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit. She died in 1910. Her image appeared on the reverse of £10 banknotes issued by the Bank of England from 1975 until 1994.

It is a fitting tribute to her that the emergency hospital just opened at the ExCel Centre in London is called the NHS Nightingale Hospital.





**at St John's
in the months of March and April 2020**

HOLY BAPTISM

No Baptisms were conducted in March or April

HOLY MATRIMONY

No Weddings were conducted in March or April

FUNERAL & MEMORIAL SERVICES

16 March	Vera Knight
16 March	Barbara Potts
23 March	John Jones
27 March	Sylvia Shaw
15 April	Anne Higham

*May these souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace.*

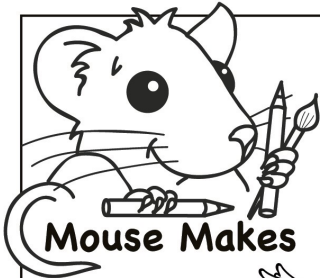
BURIAL OF ASHES

4 March	Ruth Barden
2 April	John Jones



PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Administrator	Hilary Kemp, Parish Office, Station Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1JY Email: office@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk (Tuesday/Thursday/Friday mornings 9.30am-12.30pm)	260299
Churchwardens	Lorraine Ioannou, 4 Roughdown Avenue Job Rombout, 57 Glenview Road	213648 256659
Deputy Churchwardens	Marian Davies, 16 Varney Close Jo Fisher, The Cottage, Cross Oak Rd, Berkhamsted	259447 874740
PCC Secretary	Philippa Graham, 172 Long Chaulden Email: pccsecretary@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	261706
PCC Treasurer	Chris Angell, Iddesleigh House, 61 Alexandra Rd Email: pcctreasurer@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	244158
Weekly Envelopes	Garth Bridgwood, 9 Mount Close	214441
Covenant Secretary	Garth Bridgwood, 9 Mount Close	214441
Electoral Roll	Ian Packe, 2 The Driveway, Anchor Lane Email: electoralroll@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	214126
Director of Music	Keith Beniston, 10 Belham Road, Kings Langley Email: directorofmusic@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	01923 400559
Senior Server	Graham Gibbs, 3 Charles Street	258841
Parish Magazine:		
Editor	Sally Bates, 27 Beechfield Road Email: magazine@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	266912
Advertising	Sally Bates, 27 Beechfield Road	266912
Distribution	Alan Munford, 16 St. Nicholas Mount	242543
Women's Fellowship	Jean Garner, 34 Moorland Road 3 rd Friday in month 2.30 pm	257023
Together on Monday	Di Tovey, 46 Cedar Walk 1 st & 3 rd Mondays in the month 7.45 pm	263669
Tiny Tots	Annie Mitchell, 35 Gravel Lane	254480
Junior Church	Rosie Shaw, 15 Park Road	07885 905777
Youth Meets	Jo Fisher, The Cottage, Cross Oak Rd, Berkhamsted	874740
Baptism Preparation	Annie Mitchell, 35 Gravel Lane	254480
Bible Reading Notes	Jane Prew-Bridgwood, 9 Mount Close	214441
Poetry Group	Ken Farmborough, 9 Farmery Court, Berkhamsted	874230
Sunday Lunch at St. John's	Marian Davies, 16 Varney Close	259447
Church Flowers	Sue Brown, 41 River Park	265246
Wedding Flowers	Sue Brown, 41 River Park	265246
Rainbows, Brownies and Guides	contact girlguiding.org.uk	
St John's Hall Bookings	Please telephone "Hall Bookings Secretary" or email: hallbookings@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk (Graham Liddle)	07939 226977
St Francis Hall Bookings	stfranchishallbookings@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk or more urgent enquiries - telephone Paul Davies	07802 442908
St Stephen's Hall Bookings	Jean Garner, 34 Moorland Road	257023
Music at St John's	Paul Davies - Email: masj@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	
Newsletter	Parish Office - Email: newsletter@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	
Service Helpers Rotas	Paul Davies - Email: servicehelpersadmin@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	
Webteam	Email: webteam@stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk	



"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit"

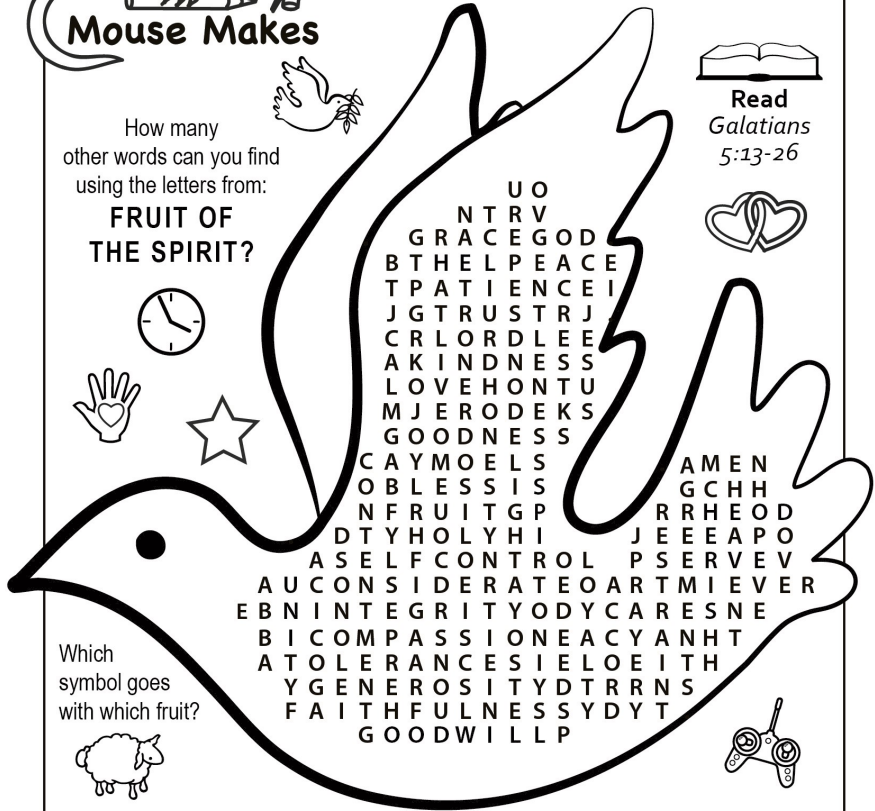
Mouse Makes

How many other words can you find using the letters from:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?



Read Galatians 5:13-26



U O
 N T R V
 G R A C E G O D
 B T H E L P E A C E
 T P A T I E N C E I
 J G T R U S T R J
 C R L O R D L E E
 A K I N D N E S S
 L O V E H O N T U
 M J E R O D E K S
 G O O D N E S S
 C A Y M O E L S
 O B L E S S I S
 N F R U I T G P
 D T Y H O L Y H I
 A S E L F C O N T R O L P S E R V E V
 A U C O N S I D E R A T E O A R T M I E V E R
 E B N I N T E G R I T Y O D Y C A R E S N E
 B I C O M P A S S I O N E A C Y A N H T
 A T O L E R A N C E S I E L O E I T H
 Y G E N E R O S I T Y D T R R N S
 F A I T H F U L N E S S Y D Y T
 G O O D W I L L P
 A M E N
 G C H H
 R R H E O D
 J E E E A P O

Which symbol goes with which fruit?



- LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
- AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
- PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
- GOODWILL • GENEROSTITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
- FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
- SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

Be our hope

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through Him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

By kind permission of Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference.

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