

Owing to Covid 19, it is impractical to print & distribute a paper copy of this magazine.

This electronic version can be found at

<http://cuxtonandhalling.org.uk/magazine.htm>

It can also be emailed to all those who may be interested. Please feel free to forward to whomsoever.

Unless things change dramatically, there will be no services either in St John's Church Halling or St Michael's Church Cuxton or the Jubilee Hall Upper Halling during the month of May. Many of you like to look at the readings we would have had and are singing the hymns at home. See below. A sermon for each week will be found at <http://cuxtonandhall.org.uk/teaching.htm>. National worship material is available <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>. There are also TV and radio broadcast services.

Music at St John the Baptist Halling May 2020			
3 <sup>rd</sup> May Easter 3 / Easter 4	11.00 Holy Communion	Genesis 7 vv 1-24 p8 Acts 2 vv 42-47 p1094 I Peter 2 vv 13-25 1218 John 10 vv 1-10 p1076  Mission Praise	275 Will Your Anchor Hold? 277 Yesterday, Today Psalm 23 21 Bind Us Together 151 Majesty 119 Jesus is Lord 262 What A Friend
10 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 4 / Easter 5 Marking 75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary VE Day.	11.00 Holy Communion  <b>O</b> ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen.</i>  Ancient & Modern	167 O Worship the King 577 The National Anthem Exhortation p274 <i>Jesus said: Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As brothers and sisters in God's family, we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.</i> Confession (p278 5) & Absolution (p279 2) 166 All People That on Earth Do Dwell Collect Genesis 8 vv 1-19 Psalm 31 vv 1-6 – 257 Glorious Things Acts 7 vv 55-60 214 There is a Green Hill I Peter 2 vv 2-10 165 O God our Help in Ages Past John 14 vv 1-14 Sermon and / or Presentations Creed p148 7 Intercessions (Rainbows) Peace 399 Alleluia Sing to Jesus HC 579 I Vow to Thee My Country Blessing & Dismissal	
17 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 5 / Easter 6	11.00 Holy Communion	Genesis 8 v20 – 9 v17 p10 Acts 17 vv 22-31 p1113 I Peter 3 vv 13-22 p1219 John 14 vv 15-21 p1082  Mission Praise	180 One Day When Heaven 171 O Love that Wilt Not Psalm 66 9 Alleluia! Alleluia! 94 I Serve a Risen Saviour 268 When the Trumpet of the
24 <sup>th</sup> May Sunday after Ascension / Easter 7	11.00 Holy Communion	Ezekiel 36 vv 24-28 p868 Acts 1 vv 6-14 p1092 I Peter 4 v12 – 5 v11 p1220 John 17 vv 1-11 p1085  English Hymnal	<b>130</b> Hail the Day <i>Gloria in Excelsis Deo</i> Psalm <b>68</b> <b>132</b> (tune 201 Everton) See the Conqueror <b>129</b> O Christ, our Hope <b>271</b> Alleluya Sing to Jesus <b>134</b> The Head that Once
31 <sup>st</sup> May Whitsun / Pentecost	11.00 Holy Communion	Numbers 11 vv 24-30 p148 Acts 2 vv 1-21 p1093 I Corinthians 12 vv 3-13 p John 20 vv 19-23 p1089  English Hymnal	<b>263</b> All Creatures of our <i>Gloria in Excelsis Deo</i> Psalm 104 <b>137</b> Come Down O Love <b>367</b> Gracious Spirit <b>296</b> Lord Enthroned <b>361</b> (tune 322 Duke Street) Forth in the Peace

Music at St Michael & All Angels Cuxton from May 2020			
3 <sup>rd</sup> May Easter 3 / Easter 4	9.30 Family Communion  Songs of Fellowship	445 O Praise Ye the Lord C&A 434 O Love That Wilt Not Collect Genesis 7 vv 1-24 p8 Psalm 23 Acts 2 vv 42-47 p1094 197 I Am A New Creation I Peter 2 vv 13-25 1218 111 For I'm Building a John 10 vv 1-10 p1076 Sermon Creed 5 p147 said Intercessions & Peace 519 Take My Life 22 A New Commandment	
10 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 4 / Easter 5 Marking 75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary VE Day.	9.30 Holy Communion <p><b>O</b> ALMIGHTY God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen.</i></p> Songs of Fellowship	120 The Servant King The National Anthem Exhortation p274 <i>Jesus said: Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As brothers and sisters in God's family, we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.</i> Confession (p278 5) & Absolution (p279 2) 381 Make Me a Channel Collect Genesis 8 vv 1-19 Psalm 31 vv 1-6 – 127 Glorious Things Acts 7 vv 55-60 542 There is a Green Hill I Peter 2 vv 2-10 415 O God our Help in Ages Past John 14 vv 1-14 Sermon and / or Presentations Creed p146 Intercessions (Rainbows) Peace 390 Meekness & Majesty HC 64 Colours of Day Blessing & Dismissal	
17 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 5 / Easter 6	9.30 Holy Communion	Genesis 8 v20 – 9 v17 p10 Acts 17 vv 22-31 p1113 I Peter 3 vv 13-22 p1219 John 14 vv 15-21 p1082 Songs of Fellowship	551 Thine Be the Glory 261 I Want to Walk 10 All Heaven Declares 285 Jesus Christ is Risen 357 Living Lord 61 Christ the Lord is Risen
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May Ascension Day	11.00 am Holy Communion	Acts 1 vv 1-11 p1092 Luke 24 vv 44-53 p1062 Ancient & Modern	87 Hail the Day <i>Gloria in Excelsis Deo</i> 130 Where High the Heavenly 262 Alleluia Sing to Jesus 141 The Head that Once
24 <sup>th</sup> May Sunday after Ascension / Easter 7	9.30 Holy Communion	Ezekiel 36 vv 24-28 p868 Acts 1 vv 6-14 p1092 I Peter 4 v12 – 5 v11 p1220 John 17 vv 1-11 p1085 Songs of Fellowship	9 All Hail the Power <i>Gloria in Excelsis Deo</i> 390 (with SA) Meekness & Majesty Psalm 68 107 Fight the Good Fight 108 (tune?) Fill Thou My 593 What a Friend

31 <sup>st</sup> May Whitsun / Pentecost	9.30 Holy Communion	Numbers 11 vv 24-30 p148 Acts 2 vv 1-21 p1093 I Corinthians 12 vv 3-13 p John 7 vv 37-39 p1072	<i>Gloria in Excelsis Deo</i> Psalm 104 <i>Choir please choose five hymns.</i>
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Copy Date June Magazine: 8<sup>th</sup> May 8.30 am Rectory.  
(This may well be another online only issue but all contributions will be welcome.)

### Your Questions

We invited questions from readers which we could try to answer in these pages. Please send any questions you might have to the Rector. This month I was asked about Jesus' attitude to the Sabbath and Christian teaching on the subject.

The question what Christians should do about the Sabbath is complex. These are my thoughts.

God is always at work. If He stopped sustaining Creation for an instant, we and everything else would cease to exist. Genesis 2 is using poetic language when it speaks of God resting on the seventh day\*. This is precious, however. It provides a basis for our having one day of rest a week. We don't need to work a seven day week and it doesn't do us any good if we try. See Exodus 16 (The story of God feeding the Israelites with manna in the Wilderness)<sup>†</sup>. There is also the sense that there remains a rest for the people of God – perfect rest in heaven when our trials on earth are over.

\* 1Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

<sup>†</sup> 1And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. 2And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: 3And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger. 4Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. 5And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. 6And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the Lord hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: 7And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the Lord; for that he heareth your murmurings against the Lord: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? 8And Moses said, This shall be, when the Lord shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord. 9And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the Lord: for he hath heard your murmurings. 10And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the

I suppose I am the right age to have experienced personally the decline of Sabbath observance in this country even among Christians. When I was a child, most businesses were closed on Sundays, few people went to work, not much housework was done, especially not washing clothes, we were expected to play quietly and not to disturb working people who were having a lie in, to refrain from certain pastimes like playing cards or singing songs that were not hymns, most children went to Sunday School and a fair proportion of adults went to church. In my life time this has changed to the point where Sunday is hardly different from week days. Growing up, I welcomed the disappearance of some of the restrictions, but, I remember in my teens being struck by the thought that keeping the Sabbath is actually one of the Ten Commandments<sup>‡</sup>. It is right up there at the beginning of the Law God gave to Moses. The Ten Commandments have been seen as the basis of all law. So I stopped doing what could be regarded as work (eg homework) on Sundays. It is difficult, however, to be sure what does count as work and therefore to be avoided (Gardening? Housework? Cooking?). I felt that going to Church, especially Holy Communion, on Sundays was a duty which ought to trump leisure activities such as taking part in the London Marathon, though I have not always been entirely true to my principles on that one. I'm somewhat stunned by not being allowed to go to Church on Sundays at the moment!

We would surely want doctors & nurses to continue working on Sundays and people who provide things we'd find it hard in modern society to do without, like electricity and running water. I would say, though, that people working on Sundays ought to have another day off in the week. I do avoid shopping on Sundays as far as I can. I do not believe it is necessary for the shops to be open on the Sabbath. I do, however, take Charles Dickens' point that it would seem to be very unfair to expect working people to be at work all the week and then for them to find all the places of entertainment closed on their one day off!

What about Jesus and the Sabbath? He angered the Jewish authorities on a number of occasions by healing on the Sabbath. Nowhere, however, does He abolish the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a gift of God, first to the Jews and then to the entire human race. What I think He means in what He says is that too many people

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cloud. 11And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 12I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God. 13And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. 14And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. 15And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat. 16This is the thing which the Lord hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents. 17And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less. 18And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating. 19And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning. 20Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them. 21And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted. 22And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. 23And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. 24And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. 25And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the Lord: to day ye shall not find it in the field. 26Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none. 27And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. 28And the Lord said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? 29See, for that the Lord hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. 30So the people rested on the seventh day.

<sup>‡</sup> Exodus 20: <sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: <sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

(including those in authority) misunderstood and abused the Sabbath. Instead of a day of rest and joyful worship, they had made it a day of restrictions. The spiritually proud liked to judge others by how thoroughly they kept the Sabbath. Jesus said (Mark 2<sup>27&28</sup>): *The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.*

So the Sabbath is a gift to serve humanity not a burden for humanity to bear. The phrase *Son of Man* sometimes just means any man (or any human being) and sometimes it means Jesus. It could mean either here. The Sabbath is to serve us, not we to serve the Sabbath. Jesus (Who represents all humanity before the Throne of God) is Lord of the Sabbath as He is the Lord of all.

So, Christians and the Sabbath? It is often pointed out that in the bible the Sabbath is Saturday – the seventh day of the week. Christians quickly came to worship on the first day of the week – the day Jesus rose from the dead. Sunday then acquired the characteristics of the Jewish Sabbath. The Emperor Constantine promoted Sunday observance in the Roman Empire. Before he became a Christian, he had been a Sun worshipper and some people wonder which of his two religions inspired him to choose Sunday as a special day?

S Paul is clear that we should not judge one another (Colossians 2<sup>16 et seq</sup>)<sup>§</sup> on our adherence or otherwise to religious rituals. We are justified by God by grace through faith, not by any kind of good works. I think Paul would say that individuals should make their own judgment as a matter of conscience regarding this kind of thing.

My judgment is that we should observe (and encourage other people to observe) a special day each week set aside for worship & rest, but not, however, to make that day a burden or to condemn other people whose consciences lead them to different conclusions. After all, every day of the week should be regarded as holy and everything we do as worship (Colossians 3<sup>17</sup>) *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.* Roger.

#### **ORDER OF SERVICE – for use in Government Offices.**

**Let us pray:** Grant that this day we come to no Decisions,  
neither run into any kind of Responsibility:  
and that all our doings may be ordered to  
establish new and quite unwarranted Depart-  
ments, for ever and ever. *Amen*

**Hymn:** *O Thou who seest all things below,  
Grant that Thy Servants may go slow,  
That they may study to comply,  
With regulations till they die.*

*Teach us, O Lord, to reverence,  
Committees more than common sense,  
Impress our minds to make no plan,  
But 'pass the baby' when we can.*

*And when the tempter seeks to give,  
Us feelings of initiative,  
Or, when alone, we go too far,  
CHASTISE US WITH A CIRCULAR!*

*Mid war and tumult, fire and storms,  
Strengthen us we pray with forms,  
Thus will they servants ever be,  
A FLOCK OF PERFECT SHEEP FOR THEE.*

*Amen*

#### **Benediction:**

The peace of Whitehall, which passes all understanding,  
Preserve your mind in lethargy, your body in inertia,  
And your soul in coma – now and for evermore. *Amen*  
(Anon.)

I found this (see left) in an old book for the civil service, but it is probably equally apposite for the Church nowadays.

There was also this gem of an expenses account submitted by a quarrying company some years ago to the Inland Revenue, who wondered if the two items were at all related.

To explosives: £3 6/3d

To wreath: £1 5/-.

Another odd entry was this. “Completing a tax return, one payer wrote just one word in the space for wife’s employment. “Nun”!

Another claimed have taken out an endearment policy on his wife.

Following a wedding, a bride asked for tax relief in respect of expenses for her torso.

<sup>§ 16</sup> Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

<sup>17</sup> Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.



### From the Rector

There are two reasons why I hadn't wanted to write about the virus. One is that you may well think that you have heard more than enough about it already. The other is that things are moving so rapidly that I might write things now which will be out of date by the time you read them. However, the virus is so much in our thoughts at this time that I can hardly ignore it and we Christians have a timeless, an eternal perspective on life, which casts a heavenly light on the things of this world, both good and bad. That is what we are here for, the reason why our core message is never out of date. *Thy word is a lantern unto my feet: and a light unto my paths.*

Every responsible person has been passing on the advice and instructions issued by the government, the medics and by scientists. We have all been trying to help one another through the crisis, keeping in touch with people, making sure that nobody is without the essentials of life, supporting one another by phone calls and emails and whatever other means of communication we are allowed to use. We have all been trying to keep ourselves well so that we don't infect other people or become a burden on already over-stretched health services. People of all faiths and none have been doing all these things.

One thing people of faith have to offer which others do not is prayer. We have not been allowed to use our church buildings, but we have all been encouraged to pray. We can pray anywhere. God is everywhere: out in the countryside; at sea and in the air and in outer space; in our towns and villages; in offices, shops and homes; in our hearts. There is nowhere that God is not. So we can always pray wherever we are, whatever we are doing.

The corona virus Covid 19 has given us plenty of things to think and pray about for our own country and for people in other lands.

- To pray for those who have contracted the disease.
- To pray for those who are looking after them – family and friends, professionals such as doctors and nurses.
- To remember before God those who have died and their families and friends, especially when visiting has not been

allowed because of the risk of infection and, for the same reason, it has not been possible to hold the funeral we should have liked.

- To pray for those who are anxious and afraid.
- To pray for those lonely in isolation.
- To pray for those who may have other physical or mental conditions which are not receiving the treatment they would be given in more normal times.
- To pray for those researching into treatments and cures for this illness.
- To pray for those working on vaccines and any other possibilities for preventing its spread.
- For God to take away this plague.
- For those suffering economic hardship because of the lockdown on commerce, trade and manufacturing.
- For labour to cultivate and harvest the crops.
- For people working in shops, for delivery & bus drivers and for all those engaged in supplying us with the goods we need.
- For those in prisons, care homes, long stay hospitals and other places where people are especially prone to infection because of their inevitable proximity to one another in the places in which they live.
- For people in government and all in authority with very difficult and responsible decisions to take.
- For the personal well-being of those who bear these heavy loads.
- For people who have to enforce the law at this difficult time.
- For people attempting to do their work or to study from home, for parents supporting home education, for teachers trying to meet their pupils' needs at a distance.
- For those confined in inadequate or overcrowded accommodation without access to gardens or public open space.
- For the homeless and those voluntary and statutory bodies which try to help them.

No doubt you can think of many others who specially need our prayers at this time.

And there is still that other perspective. In the Old Testament, Job, who was a good man and

definitely didn't deserve it, in a series of disasters, lost his possessions and his grown up children and their households and then his own health failed him. In despair (and frustration at the unsatisfactory attempts of his comforters to console him), he asked in Job 17<sup>15</sup>: *But where is now my hope?*

That is a very good question. *But where is now my hope?* In the short term, our hope might be in a vaccine, or in testing and contact tracing. Our hope no doubt is that this crisis will soon be over, that there will not be too much more sickness and death and that our way of life will return soon to something more like normality. Whether it will or not, when it might, is not for me to say. I don't know better than anyone else. Even the experts are uncertain. These are reasonable hopes for the world as it is, but they are not our ultimate hope.

Our ultimate hope as Christians is the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life. We know that we are all going to die some day and that the things of this world will pass away. If we are believers, we also know that this world is not all there is. Far from it, the best of this world is no more than a foretaste of the good things which God has laid up for those who love Him. We live our lives here on earth in the light of that knowledge – that there is an infinitely better life to come. We do not have to be afraid of death or of anything which this world can do to us. If we are believers, we are already citizens of heaven. We are children of God and we shall come fully into our inheritance only when our sojourn here on earth is over. We live our earthly lives in that heavenly light. We live as children of God and citizens of heaven in the here and now because that is what we are, but we shall only come into the fulness of eternal life, the abundance of joy, when we shall see Him as He is and know God as we are known. That is something rather to long for than to fear.

I am certainly not saying that this life is unimportant. We are richly blessed in our lives on earth. We have much to be thankful for. God cares about us. God cares for us in every aspect of

**Psalm 121: I WILL** lift up mine eyes unto the hills : from whence cometh my help. My help cometh even from the Lord : who hath made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved : and he that keepeth thee will not sleep. Behold, he that keepeth Israel : shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord himself is thy keeper : the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand; So that the sun shall not burn thee by day : neither the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil : yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in : from this time forth for evermore.

our lives. We pray to Him for everything we need and we trust Him to look after us. We have a tremendous responsibility to live as His children, in obedience to His Commandments, which are summed up in the command to love. Pain and death and fear, sin and evil, the troubles of this world are all very real. Jesus Himself died an agonising death on the Cross. It would be quite wrong to deny the reality and power of evil on earth, the sorrows of this sinful world, to which we remain susceptible so long as we remain in this mortal existence, but Christ has overcome the world. *But where is now my hope? Our help standeth in the Name of the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth* (Psalm 124<sup>7</sup>).

We do and must make the most of our lives here on earth, but they are not the ultimate reality. Ultimately our fulfilment as human beings is to dwell for ever in the unmediated love of God. It is important that we pick our way carefully through the world, but we do so with our minds set on our final destination.

Let me offer this analogy. On one of the occasions when I was in a group cycling through the Holy Land, at one point the going was tough. The road was rough. The bikes were heavy and not particularly brilliant to ride. The cyclists were hot and thirsty. The wind swept across the plain and the route was unrelentingly upward into the hills. The tendency was to keep your eyes focused on the road a yard in front of your front wheel and to keep slogging away at the pedals until you felt you had to get off, give up and walk or even rest by the roadside. Our guides told us to lift up our eyes to the tops of the hills, to focus our attention on where we were going to and not so much on the hard slog on the way. Of course, it would be foolish not to look down at the road immediately in front of you at all. You'd drift off it or run into potholes or crash into other riders. But if you thought this hard, desiccated climb was all there was in life, you'd give up. It is in focusing on the goal that you find the strength to complete the journey and, once you've done that, you'll know why it was all worthwhile. Roger.



## Pre- Decimal Humour

Reduced to reading old books because the libraries are closed, I came across this gem, supposedly seen in the window of an enterprising London bookshop.

“Holy Scripture, Writ Divine,  
Leather bound, at one and nine,  
Satan trembles when he sees  
Bibles sold as cheap as these.”

Possibly not the same bookseller who advertised:  
“Shelley – Prometheus Unbound 4/9d. Bound  
7/6d.”

St Michael's Draw April: £10 to Mr Bogg (22), £5 each to Mrs Sadler (33) & Mrs Pitt (10).

## **Ryarsh**

I was enormously lucky to have taken this walk the day before the 'Stay at Home' measures began. One of the reasons for taking this walk was because it was a beautiful sunny day and I had a feeling that our movements were about to be restricted. Many readers know our local woods and countryside so I decided to go just a short distance away.

My walk began at the car park of the community hall in Ryarsh. The area was very quiet as there was hardly a soul in evidence. I walked up Birling Road to The Street then into Woodgate Road. Along the roads there were some lovely gardens sporting golden daffodils, grape hyacinths and primulas of every colour. I took a footpath on the



left and it led up a slope to farmland. Just beyond the field gate I was treated to delightful views of fields and woodland extending to my right, to my left and straight ahead. The fields were showing green spring

shoots but many trees were still leafless although they had mistletoe high in their branches.



The footpath led to the bottom of a large fenced field.

Beyond the fence was the M20 motorway.

I continued parallel to the motorway before going over a stile to join a narrow lane with a bridge over the M20. The lane led to Addington. A very pretty village with a long history.



It was mentioned in the Domesday Book under the name, Eddintune and is notable for the long barrows (Neolithic chamber

tombs). My route took me to the village centre and green space bordered by some houses and the village pub, The Angel. I turned left and walked along the signed footpath which was close to the motorway and former footbridge over the M20.



The footpath led onto a corner of the West Malling Golf Course. In spite of the beautiful sunny day the golf course

was eerily quiet so I crossed it and walked on through a nearby wood and wide open farmland towards Leybourne. My route took me to the Parish Church of St Martin. After the church I turned right and followed a quiet path that crossed a lane then followed a stream.

I saw several other walkers along this path.

Everyone was enjoying the sunshine and tranquil beauty of the area. The footpath opened out at a farm and mill before returning to a more major road where I turned left to follow the Birling Road with the bridge over the motorway. Once over the motorway I turned left off the road onto a footpath that led round the field and



over a stream then through a shady wood. The well signed footpath led back to Ryarsh. This was a lovely walk which seemed so much better because of the sunshine. There was less sloppy

mud and the ground had started to dry after all the rains.

I am not sure about doing any walks during the next month or months. It may only be possible to commentate on an enlightening tour starting from Ma Porte d 'entree and wandering towards Los

Back Gardenia via Del Dining Room, El Kitchenia, Los Lounge and Les Palms et le foliage in le Conservatoire!

Stay In - Stay Safe - Keep Well  
Holly Croft

#### I Was Sent This on Good Friday

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.

Jesus had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.

Jesus had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.

Jesus had no army, yet kings feared Him.

Jesus won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

Jesus committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives for us today.



#### Tommy's Talking Points

At least in the online version you get the pictures in colour. It's a shame that not so many people will see them as usual. If you are able please forward this magazine to other people you know who might like it. There is no charge for the online version. You could also direct them to Master's web page <http://cuxtonandhall.org.uk/>

Life is very different in lockdown. I wouldn't say that it is bad for me. In fact some people are saying that lockdown is a bit of a treat for dogs. They are hardly left alone at home at all. Human beings, desperate for an excuse to get out of the house, are glad to find a dog to take for a walk. In fact they say that in Italy, where people

were only allowed out to walk dogs, some poor dogs got exhausted because neighbours kept borrowing them for an outing.

The funny thing is that having him around all day (which is very nice) means I miss my daytime naps and I'm quite tired in the eon when I've had my tea and he's trying to eat his.

We, of course, do go out every day. Normally, I can expect two walks, but now Master is only allowed out for one exercise session. I'm not sure that that's fair on me. Dogs can't catch the virus. I did tell you that he has mysteriously recovered the ability to run (well jog at just above walking pace). That has meant that we can make the most of our one outing each day. We are very blessed to live on the verge of such incredibly beautiful countryside. Because there is so much space, Master can easily keep the requisite 79" from other walkers. We see lambs and calves in the fields. The trees are coming into leaf. We saw our first May blossom today (11<sup>th</sup> April). They say, *Ne'er cast a clout e'er May is out* which Master says means don't go out without warm clothes on till May is out, but it isn't clear whether that means the month of May or the hawthorn blossom. It doesn't worry me. I wear the same coat whatever the weather. To be honest, Master doesn't seem to be very bothered about dressing up either. He reckons it's better to be comfortable than to be smart and being too hot (especially when exercising) is worse than being too cold. "Run or cycle faster!" he says to joggers and cyclists who complain about being cold. (He isn't always tactful.)

There are lots of other interesting fauna and flora. There seem to be more foxes about than there were, possibly because there are fewer people, possibly because Spring is here. I usually have a good bark through the window at foxes in the garden in the evening. Master doesn't like me barking when he's trying to watch something on Netflix. There are plenty of squirrels about and woodpeckers which we never see but can always hear drumming. There are other kinds of birds and butterflies. Other insects brought out by the warm spring weather include mosquitoes which are less welcome. The butterflies are pretty though, mostly brimstone and peacock among the ones he recognises in our garden.

The primroses are amazing. So are the violets. There are anemones and dead nettle. Swathes of bluebells are beginning to bloom as I write. I expect we shall be able to enjoy these for a few weeks yet to come and Master is looking forward to the call of the cuckoo which he expects will be quite soon.

Despite the threat of the virus, the government is encouraging people to get out and exercise if they possibly can. You need to stay healthy and to avoid the health problems which you might get if you don't do anything much and eat because you're bored. Staying otherwise fit & healthy also gives you a better chance of beating the virus if you do get it. Master says that vulnerable people mustn't go out in case they catch it and, of course, many people aren't well enough to go out much either. Do what you can indoors. Try to keep interested in life. Stay in touch with people even if you can't go out. Phone and internet are obvious ways. Letters and cards can be nice too. Maybe you can talk to other people through windows. Today we saw where people had chalked cheerful greetings on doorsteps.

Physical exercise is good for the mind as well as the body. The Greeks spoke (in Latin!) of *mens sana in corpore sano*, a healthy mind in a healthy body. There's quite a lot of truth in that, though some people whose bodies are not well have very good minds and some people who are very healthy physically are not at all nice to know. Someone asked Master once if he was one of those muscular Christians. He said he would be if he were more muscular and more Christian – though he'd rather be a better Christian than a better physical specimen.

Anyway, where was I? Physical exercise is good for the whole you – mind and body – but it turns out that running or walking outdoors is better for you than in a gym or indoors on an exercise machine. Just being out of doors does you good and dealing with the uneven surfaces of rural paths stimulates your brain as well as your legs. These results chime in nicely with Master's slightly unconventional ideas – that you are better off using your body for the sort of things it was made for than conforming to the sophistications of the world and that it is easier to recognise God in His handywork in Nature than within the four walls of houses, shops, offices, factories, galleries, museums, etc., (or possibly even of churches).

Don't overdo it, Master. You're always reminding people (and yourself) what S Paul said on the subject. "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." Whatever your hopes and ambitions for life, never lose sight of what really matters.

Having said that, one good point of the lockdown has been the reduction in pollution (atmospheric and light) enabling us to see and hear better everything from the birds singing in the trees to the stars in the night sky. Look out for Venus in the western sky – the brightest heavenly body after the moon – and for the comet expected at the end of April. Master does remind himself, however, that the reason for the decline in traffic is that so many people are unable to go out to work and school and that businesses are failing as a result. On the other hand, it is also true that we shouldn't be as susceptible to respiratory diseases like Covid 19 if we breathed clean air all the time.

I had been hoping to go to Rye with Master and our friend to continue our coastal walk. Like so many things, that is now on hold. We're not supposed to make unnecessary journeys by train. The two men would have to walk 79" apart, which isn't conducive to the conversations they enjoy having and there would be no pubs open for lunch. Let's hope for everybody's sake, that things will soon be back to normal.

What we are missing is going to church and seeing so many of our of our friends. We do meet some on our essential journeys, but not like we normally do when we're all together for church services and social events. May those days return soon. Master says to keep in touch especially if there is anything you need. We can be united in love and prayer even if we are apart physically.

Tommy, the Rectory Spaniel.

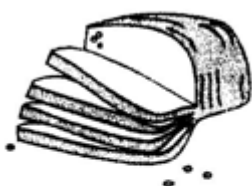
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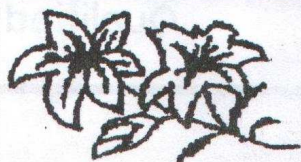
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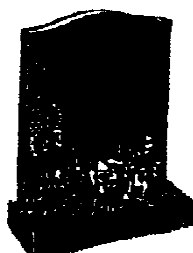
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