

**MID LOES BENEFICE**  
**Ashfield-cum-Thorpe, Charsfield with Debach**  
**Cretingham, Dallinghoo, Earl Soham,**  
**Hoo, Letheringham and Monewden**

**June 2020**

## *From The Rector*

Dear friends

How are you? That's a question that's taken on a new depth in recent months. Good health has suddenly become a fragile thing and not to be taken for granted. The virus itself has had a knock-on effect on both people's physical health and mental health, whether it's a fear of going to hospital or indeed a fear of going out at all. For some, being confined at home has proved extremely distressing. We wonder how and when it will end and we can return to something resembling normality.

Church of England church buildings are still closed to visitors and for collective worship - the risk of transmission of the virus being too great. Even if and when churches are open for individuals, this will in turn present a problem when it comes to cleaning. Where have the visitors (if any) sat and what have they touched? And who is going to clean the surfaces after them? It is all going to require a lot of careful thought.

There has been much discussion about what the long-term effect of the lockdown might be on the life of the church. Some clergy have broadcast online services from their homes and latterly from their churches. Might that be a permanent development? Meetings have been held via video conferencing. Might that be a good idea for the future? Do we actually need our church buildings for us to function as Christians? Some think not. This is all controversial stuff. Will regular worshippers be eager to get back into church, enjoy the physical presence of others and receive the bread

and wine at a service of Holy Communion? Will those who have been watching on line want to try the 'real thing'? Or will we all discover that we can do without. Who knows? I have a sneaking suspicion that for most people the relief of being able to return to how things were before will trump any desire to 'learn lessons', but we shall see. I'm certainly not going to spend time agonising over it and I'm happy simply to see how things develop. While we can all plan ahead to some extent, one lesson we have learnt is that we cannot predict or control the future. Most of the time we just have to respond to it in whatever way seems best. I think that is where faith comes in - not in the weak sense of simply closing our eyes and hoping for the best, but in the sense of an assurance of this being God's world and that we are accompanied by Him as we face whatever comes our way. I am writing this two days before Pentecost, the day that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to accompany us, to comfort us and to strengthen us. Particularly at the moment, that is a very welcome message.

Best wishes  
Stephen

### **PRAYER FOR HEALING**

**A small group meets every month and if you  
would like prayer for yourself or someone close  
who is ill or in any kind of need  
please get in touch with any of the following:**

**Stephen Brian - 01728 685 308**  
**Kathleen Martin - 01473 737 285**  
**Pauline Cobley - 01473 737 317**  
**Margaret Salter - 01473 737 182**

**Your call will be treated in the strictest confidence .**

## ***EARL SOHAM NOTES***

### **Rota for the Altar & Roll of Honour flowers & Brasses St Mary's**

As the church is closed, no flowers etc, if this changes yn will do the Flowers & Brasses for June.

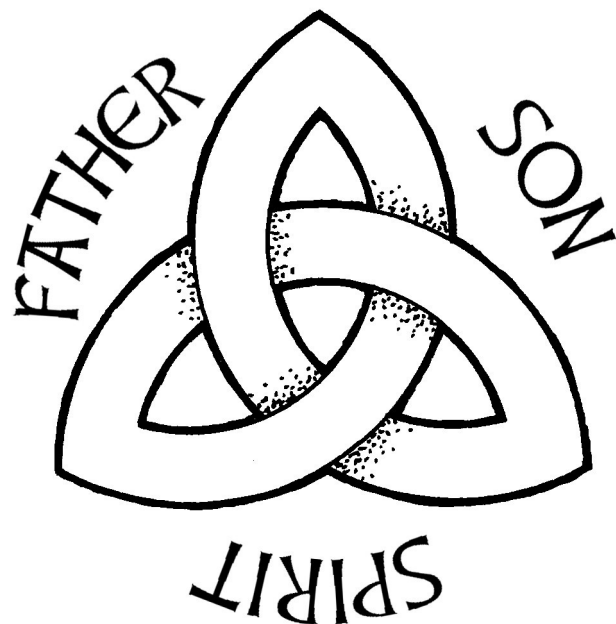
Any problems ring 685278

Take care & keep safe.  
Lyn T

“On behalf of the PCC may I thank those of you who have returned their donations towards the cost of the Parish Magazine. If there are any envelopes still lying around do please drop them in as, particularly now, every donation is most welcome.

Thank you, again,

Chris Pratt,  
Treasurer”.



## ***CHARSFIELD WITH DEBACH NOTES***

### ***Church Rotas***

*Sadly, while there are no Services, the rota of Readers and Sides persons has been temporarily suspended*

### ***Coffee Rota***

*To be agreed once Services resume*

# THANK YOU



## Wickham Market Flower Club

It is with great sadness we announce that Wickham Market Flower Club has taken the decision to cancel all future flower club meetings for 2020. The 2metre restriction suggestion would make meetings in the village hall virtually impossible, therefore in order to consider the health and welfare of all our members we feel this was the only sensible option. This also unfortunately includes our Open Meeting for November and our outing planned for June.

We envisage our first meeting of 2021 will be a Special AGM s per our constitution, but of course we will release more details later as soon as we are out of lockdown.

We already have a lovely programme of demonstrators organised for 2021, so that's something to look forward too. Members are also asked to keep saving items for the Sales table and to take photographs of anything you have created during lockdown, your gardens etc. These will all be used to produce a bumper edition of one next Newsletter. Please also keep making or refreshing your Hope/Appreciation door rings. These make a lovely talking point for people passing by.

Could you also give some thought to joining our committee. It's much easier and nicer than you think. Do speak to any current committee member for details. Any questions please contact our Chairman, June Allum on 01394 384803 She will be only too pleased to hear from you.

In the meantime do please stay safe and well and remember we are all missing you.

**Mandy**



## May 2020

As I sit to write this month's article, we continue to live in incredibly challenging circumstances, with the Coronavirus restrictions continuing to impact upon our day to day lives. I'd like to start by thanking each and every one of you for playing your part and staying at home, helping to protect our NHS and saving lives.

During this important national fight against COVID-19, I have been given leave by the Government to return to the frontline of the NHS working as a doctor, but I want you to know that I am still here to help you as your local MP and continue to stand up for the best interests of Suffolk.

I am in touch with my office on a regular basis, where I am briefed fully and give regular instructions on constituency matters and how to help people locally who may be in need. My team and I are working extraordinarily long hours dealing with a hugely increased workload, helping people to access vital daily support, return home from overseas and providing advice to businesses to access Government grants.

We are very lucky indeed to live in Suffolk and I have been heartened to hear so many stories of communities coming together and individuals going out of their way to help elderly and vulnerable neighbours. It is times like these which bring out the best in people and I am proud to call Suffolk my home.

Suffolk's "Home But Not Alone" scheme is an outstanding example of the public and voluntary sector coming together to deliver help to those who need it. [The number for those in need of genuine help is 0800 876 6926 lines continue to be staffed from 9am to 5pm 7 days a week.](#)

Many businesses have been in touch welcoming the measures put in place by the Treasury, but of course there are still some who are left behind and falling through the net. The likelihood of social distancing measures lasting for many months, or even a year, is likely to put considerable strain on our pubs and restaurants. That's why I have written to the Chancellor to raise these concerns and I am hopeful that more can be done to help our local businesses and in particular, our pubs, cafes and restaurants in the weeks and months ahead.

As ever, I would like to close by paying tribute to my NHS colleagues, the Police and the many others on the frontline of our public services who are putting others before themselves to help in this crucial fight against Coronavirus.

If you would like my help, please visit my website [www.drdanielpoulter.com](http://www.drdanielpoulter.com) for the latest information.

## JAMES CHADWICK MBH AND TEGEN DOVEY



James and I would like to introduce ourselves to the village as the new occupants of the Hamilton Bloodhounds Kennels. We are very pleased and excited to be starting our new life, and we very much hope that you can all be a part of it along the way. James has been one of the Joint Masters of the Hamilton Bloodhounds since they were first established last year. He previously worked in both arable and dairy farming, and he has followed hounds since he was 10 years old. He first developed his passion for bloodhounds whilst going out with the East Anglian Bloodhounds (where he was one of the whippers-in), which is where he and I met. We have both enjoyed bloodhounding ever since, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity of looking after and working with the Hamilton Bloodhounds. James' role is that of Master-Huntsman, so he will not only be looking after the hounds, and taking them out on meet days, parades etc., but he will also remain one of the Joint Masters as well. I will continue to work as a veterinary nurse.

We are very keen to make the Kennels as open and welcoming a place as we can. Please feel free to drop in and say hello, have a cup of something, and meet our wonderful hounds. Bloodhounds are very friendly: they love people, and they will certainly be very pleased to see you! We look forward to seeing you all soon.

## The Great Realisation, by Tom Roberts

"Tell me the one about the virus again, then I'll go to bed".

"But, my boy, you're growing weary, sleepy thoughts about your head".

"That one's my favourite. Please, I promise, just once more".

"Okay, snuggle down, my boy, but I know you all too well.

This story starts before then in a world I once would dwell".

"It was a world of waste and wonder, of poverty and plenty,

Back before we understood why hindsight's 2020

You see, the people came up with companies to trade across all lands

But they swelled and got much bigger than we ever could have planned

We always had our wants, but now, it got so quick

You could have anything you dreamed of, in a day and with a click

We noticed families had stopped talking, that's not to say they never spoke

But the meaning must have melted and the work life balance broke

(Cont on page 16)

## OUR READERS ARE PLEASED TO HAVE LOCAL BUSINESSES TO CONTACT WHEN THEY NEED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

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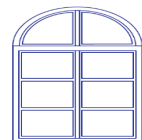
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## The Great Realisation, by Tom Roberts (cont)

And the children's eyes grew squarer and every toddler had a phone  
They filtered out the imperfections, but amidst the noise, they felt alone.  
And every day the skies grew thicker, 'till you couldn't see the stars,  
So, we flew in planes to find them, while down below we filled our cars.  
We drove around all day in circles, we'd forgotten how to run  
We swapped the grass for tarmac, shrunk the parks 'till there were none  
We filled the sea with plastic because our waste was never capped  
Until, each day when you went fishing, you'd pull them out already wrapped  
And while we drank and smoked and gambled, our leaders taught us why  
It's best to not upset the lobbies, more convenient to die  
But then in 2020, a new virus came our way,  
The governments reacted and told us all to hide away  
But while we were all hidden, amidst the fear and all the while,  
The people dusted off their instincts, they remembered how to smile  
They started clapping to say thank you and calling up their mums  
And while the car keys gathered dust, they would look forward to their runs  
And with the skies less full of voyagers, the earth began to breathe  
And the beaches bore new wildlife that scuttled off into the seas  
Some people started dancing, some were singing, some were baking  
We'd grown so used to bad news, but some good news was in the making  
And so when we found the cure and were allowed to go outside  
We all preferred the world we found to the one we'd left behind  
became extinct and they made way for the new  
And every simple act of kindness was now given its due  
"But why did it take us so long to bring the people back together?"  
"Well, sometimes you've got to get sick, my boy, before you start feeling better  
Now, lie down and dream of tomorrow and all the things that we can do  
And who knows, if you dream hard enough, maybe some of them will come true  
We now call it The Great Realisation and yes, since then, there have been many

**But that's the story of how it started and why hindsight's 2020"**