

April

2020



Cheddar & Crickham Baptist Connect

Welcome

Cheddar Baptist Church is a community of people of all ages. We gather together regularly to listen to and be shaped by God's Word, and scatter through the week to share God's love with others in our everyday lives. We are excited to welcome all to this place to find peace and gladness.

Thought for the Month

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens... a time to be silent and a time to speak.' Eccl 1:1, 7b (NIV).

Sometime back in February, whilst Storm Dennis was still pounding the country and a certain virus was just beginning to fill the newspaper headlines – although still a distant threat – I drove to a church building, not far from where we live. The Church of The Holy Saviour in Puxton, dates from the 13th century. It is no longer a regular place of worship but is kept open as a sanctuary and place for prayer, by the Churches Conservation Trust. Having entered the church and closed the heavy ancient door that had welcomed many through the centuries, I took some time to sit in the silence alone. The storm was raging outside and hailstorm clouds were gathering. Internally my mind was whirring and full of the usual anxious thoughts that plague

so many of us, but in this space, in this ancient, empty place of prayer I suddenly became conscious of a stillness, a peace, a silence that transcended the tempest that was continuing to rage.

I've been aware of that silence before. I noticed it once in the A and E department of Bristol Children's Hospital when Ed was admitted with encephalitis a few years ago and at other moments through my life when the storm seemed to be raging, and yet there, in the midst of it all was a silence; not the silence of an absence or loss, but the silence of one who is always present yet often unnoticed, the one who, as Sue mentioned in last Sunday's service, is not a God limited by social distancing or isolation.

Psalms 65, in Eugene Peterson's paraphrase, begins with the words, 'Silence is praise to you, Zion-dwelling God, and also obedience. You hear the prayer in it all.'

For so many at the moment, at

a time when across the world a storm seems to be blowing and threatening to destroy all the structures and securities of life, they are finding a silent centre and place of refuge in God, perhaps more than ever before. Some have mentioned that in isolation, the quiet times they have always hoped for or planned to have, have suddenly become an essential part of their day – in this place words are no longer required, just an awareness of the one who is alongside in whatever we are facing.

It's likely there will be many words from those who will try and make sense of what is happening in the world at the moment theologically. There are likely to be many sermons during and after all of this. But perhaps this is the time to hear the words of the writer of Lamentations, 'When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Bow in prayer. Don't ask questions: wait for hope to appear.' Lam 3:28-30 (MSG)

Jon Thurlow

Leadership Team

Minister: Paul Spanring Tel: 01934 744 663

Associate Minister: Jon Thurlow Tel: 01934 822 673

Treasurer : John Reeves 01934 740 395

Secretary : Angela Wilson 01934 741 313

Deacons:

Debbie and Steve Newton 01934 750 333

Pat Reeves (Safeguarding) 01934 740 395

Frances and Peter Annear—01934 713 865

Elaine Vowles 01934 741 110, John Rider 01934 709 779

News...

Richard and Carolyn write from Inverness: 'The world has changed a lot since Christmas! I hope you all remain well and are finding ways to navigate these crazy times we find ourselves in. Richard and I are well. The boys are not hugely worried by it all and we are very fortunate to live somewhere where outside space is plentiful. The baby is still living with us and is coming on in leaps and bounds (well totters and staggers at the moment) but unfortunately his adoption process is likely to be significantly held up due to everything. Thankfully he is none the wiser about this and adores the big boys, who have been super with him. My work [as a doctor] is still in preparation mode for what is to come and Richard is his usual cheery self.'



Peter and the Rabbits – alas the concert to launch the CD was postponed. However – the good news – and it REALLY IS good news – is that the CD is now available by post from Fran. Please contact her on 01934 713 865 or frances.annear@gmail.com. The CD cover says that these songs are 'songs of hope in dark times': they are negro spirituals. So – how appropriate for today! CDs cost £10 [or near offer] plus post and packing. All profits are going to UNSEEN – a Bristol-based charity that helps victims of modern-day slavery.

Megan Earing – has moved into Holywell Nursing Home, Brent St, Brent Knoll TA9 4BB Little visiting is allowed – but I expect a card would get through!

Sheila Preston has moved back to stay with her daughter in France.

Albert Elliott struggles on in Stratton House, Burnham. He's had several lots of antibiotics. Please remember Grace and the rest of the family at these particularly difficult times.

Financial Gifts Can we encourage you to go on giving? We would like to be able to continue supporting individuals, families and charities. If you want to set up a standing order or make one off gifts electronically, then please contact our Treasurer, John

Reeves [jreeves1175@gmail.com] or contact Lloyds Bank, Cheddar directly. **A/C number 00025703 Sort Code: 30 91 84**

Manse news Our lovely tenants – Jess, Sophia and Leanne have moved on... we pray for God's blessing on their futures. We have tenants lined up to move in – but it's obviously difficult times at the moment. Watch this space!

Thank you to those who are contributing to **CHURCH AT HOME**. Especial thanks to Esther Clark [Jigsaw Top Group] who is writing and illustrating a story for Jigsaw at Home.

What's your story? What has pointed you towards God? Please can you share with us your experiences of God's goodness/acts of kindness? It's really encouraging to hear. Please contact Paul .



HOW ABOUT AN MOT for your marriage? HTB [Holy Trinity Brompton] will run their highly recommended 'The Marriage Course' online

in a few days' time. This course is appropriate for those without as well as with faith. From April 6th, for details please visit <https://www.htb.org/marriage>

Spring Harvest WILL be here this year – but not as you know it! A free, on-line conference programme will be provided with material for people of all ages. 'Unleashed – the Acts Church Today' will be on YouTube from April 13 – 17. Details from: <https://springharvest.org/spring-harvest-home/>



Left to their own devices? will guide parents on the best ways to help their children navigate through the digital world confidently. Care for the Family are delivering their evening lectures online. Book through them at <https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/owndevices>. . Events are on the 4th, 5th, and 6th May.

Keeping in contact Don't forget the telephone! It's lovely to hear people's voices!

The **AGM** is postponed until further notice.

Guest editor: Frances Annear

THE MONTH AHEAD APRIL

Sundays at Cheddar Baptist Church

Morning Service 10.30am... or whenever is convenient! The service is found online on the Cheddar Baptist Church website:

CHURCH AT HOME

cheddarbaptist.co.uk

**There is also a page on the website of Jigsaw activities for Sunday—and throughout the week—
JIGSAW AT HOME**

Sundays at Crickham Baptist Church

All activities suspended during the covid-19 emergency. Hopefully Crickham will join with Cheddar!

OTHER DATES IN APRIL

Thursdays: fellowship group meets using ZOOM

Please contact paul.spanring@gmail.com

Tuesday Fellowship meets with ZOOM, 7.45 p.m.

contact JonandSophieThur-low@gmail.com

