

Holy Trinity and St. George Parish Magazine

Summer 2020



“Happiness is not a goal...
it's a by-product of a life well-lived.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

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Summer is Here: How Are You Keeping, My Friends...?

Oh, my, how the world has changed in the few short months since the last issue of this iteration of the HTSG Parish Magazine! I hope you continue to weather the storm intact, although I realise there is probably no one who has been untouched by this harrowing season. Between the pandemic, the isolation, the economic fallout and the international unrest, we have been besieged and have had to cling closely to our faith and each other (if only virtually). We experienced what must have been the strangest Lent and Easter ever, and we are pining for new life! We hope and pray that things are improving on all fronts, however gradually. We are grateful that our parish family, through the offices of Fr. Hugh and the technological prowess of Ken Jamieson, has had the tools with which to stay together through these challenges and we know that soon we will be able to resume face-to-face fellowship, however that will look in these uncertain times.

I write, of course, from the epicentre of both the pandemic and the protests. The US has lost more than 122,000 precious souls to COVID-19 as of this writing. New Jersey was the second hardest-hit state but followed all the protocols and has become a success story while other states are heading in the other direction. And all around us, in towns and cities, people of every race are marching in the streets for equity and justice, speaking for the powerless, demanding change. When polled, Americans are twice as concerned about police brutality as they are about looting, despite the rhetoric coming from Washington. I keep thinking of the adage, *“If the people lead, the leaders will follow.”*

I have felt at times positively overwhelmed by the news and by grief, both for the life we have lost and for the new life we long for, which still seems so far away. But for all the sorrow and stress we have experienced and continue to face, we have been graced with examples of selfless giving all around us. We know that God is in the giver and in the neediest. God is in the great and the small. He is marching in the street with the protesters and holding the hand of the dying. He stands beside the job seeker and the person sitting at the window, afraid to go out. He is in the wonders of creation which were granted a reprieve in the global lockdown and showed us all what is possible when the earth is treated with gentleness. Wherever we are, as James Dillet Freedman wrote, God is. We are drenched in His love and shelter in the palm of his hand.

I am delighted that this issue has a number of lovely contributions from parishioners (so much so that we have added two pages to this issue!), and for this I send a special thank-you to **Raymond Daley**, who is brilliant at dropping a well-timed word in the ear on the magazine’s behalf. Thanks as well to **Fr. Hugh, Jill Clough, Caroline and Chris D’Arcy, Pamela Boyes** and **Kathleen Hargreaves**. Please feel free to send any future contributions to Raymond (jraymonddaley@gmail.com) or to me (yorkistatheart@gmail.com). Enjoy this issue, the long summer days, the beauty of South Lakeland and hopefully some kindly weather. Let’s continue to pray for each other and to bring the love of God to our needy world.

Celeste





When the last copy of the magazine was sent out, who could have thought that this would be such a strange time. It has been very different for different people. If you have suffered or people in your family or among your friends have, then it has been a very tough time. It is possible too that the lockdown has hit you or your family in very harsh ways as well. Some people

have not responded well, and we need to keep all these people in our prayers. On the other hand, some have really enjoyed this time. When there were no cars on the roads, and the fells were clear of other walkers, the pollution and the noise were down, and people were showing a great deal of thought and kindness to others. A number of people have said that there are aspects of it that they do not want to lose.

As we come out of it slowly, or we hope we are, the announcement that hairdressers might be allowed to open at the beginning of July will probably be as much good news as some people need. In the parish we have not had as many funerals as some parishes which is a blessing of sorts. Most of those who have died have not been as a result of Covid-19 but other causes. But the sadness has been, as you know, that many people who have wanted to attend have not been able to, and that has caused some people a lot of pain. Some I know will want to have a full service at a later time. We must always keep these families in our prayers.

The schools have been open all the time for some children, but now the further opening is wonderful... but causing headteachers many a headache. Instructions arrive at the last minute, and then are changed. Risk assessments abound and few further up the chain of command are ready to take any responsibility. It is amazing how well and speedily responsibility is delegated while control is not. But all the heads and their teachers are doing their best, and Year 6 have been in for a while now, with others possibly later. September seems a long way off but it will be here soon enough and we need a tad more sympathetic leadership from the top (and earlier decisions.)

My visits to the hospital are back. Westmorland General is small and few operations are being done because people are so much more vulnerable to infection in theatre, so patients' numbers are small. All wards are colour-coded so that you know how infectious they are; but the colours, confusingly, change regularly. Two weeks ago, green was the highest danger, then yellow (I think), then white (pretty good) and white elective (excellent). Then last week it had all changed. Green was safest! Even the nurses are confused.

The church is slowly getting to re-open, too. I have enjoyed the live streaming as an experience, but it would be very good news to open. However, risk assessments etc. are needed, and permission from the diocese. By the time we next publish, hopefully the picture will be very different. God bless, and keep safe, and I hope to see you back in church soon.

Fr. Hugh

“It is not needful to be in church to be with God. We can make a chapel of our heart to which we can from time to time withdraw to have gentle, humble, loving communion with Him. Everyone is able to have these familiar conversations with God, some more, some less. He knows our capabilities. Let us make a start.”

Brother Lawrence

A New Psalm of Emptiness and Hope

by Vinita Wright

I have languished for days, even weeks,
and just now understand how hungry I am,
how desire burns, how I long for sustenance—
food and drink for my soul, my deepest self.
I languish and weep and mourn my losses.
I am empty, God, and tired and spent.

You create feasts from a few pieces of bread.
You make of our tears fuel for compassion.
You use our mistakes and shortfalls to build new ideas and better plans.

Fill my life, God of abundance!
I need energy! I need love! I need passion for what gives life.
I need and desire and hunger and thirst.
I wait here, at the center of my great need.

I wait for the silence to fill with joy.
I wait for the moment to bloom with promise.
I wait to enter your possibility.

Amen.

*Each issue of the HTSG Parish Magazine will contain an article on the vital work
of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society submitted by Raymond Daley.
This issue, we have a follow-up bonus article on the Asylum Seeker Crisis in Calais.*



How the SVP is fighting food poverty during the COVID-19 crisis

The SVP has stepped up its support for people left in dire need by the COVID-19 crisis. Our 10,000 national volunteers who befriend lonely, isolated people in their homes have had to adapt to the increasingly necessary restrictions on movement and contact. Usually well known for offering friendship through face-to-face visits, contact has had to be restricted, and a 'knock and drop' service is being introduced instead.

Jon Cornwall, SVP Head of Membership, explains: “In times like these, we are seeing isolation and loneliness on the rise, across the demographics of young, old, families, and single people alike. While our volunteers can’t respond in their usual way of a chat over a cup of tea, we have set up a temporary volunteer service, where Christians feeling called to help can be recommended by their local SVP group to carry out a shop-and-drop service of dropping off local groceries and essentials to vulnerable people.

“This is also an opportunity for a short catch up, just to check that the person is doing OK. One member, for example, had a chat with a vulnerable beneficiary while helping to clean his downstairs windows. They respected social distancing and were able to safely speak with one another.

“In this way, we are adapting our services, recruiting more volunteers and offering help where it is needed most.”

With food poverty rising steeply, the SVP’s 'knock and drop' service forms just one way that we are helping to feed the hungry. Our community support projects around the country are also providing food to people who are most in need.

Tower House in Brighton is one of the SVP's centres and is well known for providing lunch and activities for isolated older people along with a weekly Memory Café for people with dementia and those who care for them. Two course lunches are provided in partnership with food waste charity FareShare, and activities include art, chair exercise, brain gym, music therapy and counselling sessions.



Lindsay MacRae helps run the centre and says: “With COVID-19, the possibility of hosting our usual Tuesday lunches at Tower House is no longer possible. However, we know that there were many older, isolated people stuck at home, not being able to see anyone, who would be really missing a hot, freshly cooked meal and company. We don’t want them to miss out, so we are putting together food parcels for those guests who are most isolated. We have a great team of volunteers delivering them to people’s homes.”

Volunteers with health issues or who are self-isolating have also been keeping in regular contact with guests to check up on them over the telephone. Lindsay says, “Mainly our volunteers call guests to have a natter and catch up. Providing conversation is just as nourishing as providing food.” She says that demand is increasing week on week.

“Some guests have described our service as a 'life-line' and sadly this is all too true, as many of our guests have no relatives or anyone close to help them out. Those in sheltered housing, without an on-site manager, are particularly vulnerable as all communal spaces have been closed. The majority of our guests have no internet access to engage with the wider world. Imagine getting through lockdown without Netflix or a smart-phone.”

However, Lindsay insists: “Although we are far apart, we hope to remain as close as ever during the crisis by offering food and friendship”.

St. Vincent's Support Centre in Leeds, another Community Support Project run by the SVP, is also refusing to give in to the pandemic. Debt advice and counselling are being provided over the phone,

ensuring that people in need can still access these services. Each and every day the centre hands out breakfast parcels at 10am. This is fresh food that has been donated the previous day by local supermarkets, schools and even hotels. Where possible, the parcels generally contain bread, milk and fruit and are supplied to an average of 135 people a day.

At lunchtime, St. Vincent's has been offering clients a fresh, hot takeaway meal. These are prepared every day by Dermot, the Community Café Manager and, again, is using food that has been donated. In a single day, up to 160 free hot meals are provided.

Sheena Eastwood, St Vincent's Centre manager, explains that many of the people being supported are families, including a family with seven children that comes daily. Sheena says: "We are very much part of the East Leeds community and want to ensure that everyone in the area has access to enough fresh food. The support that we are receiving from schools, supermarkets and other organisations is absolutely breath-taking, and we are humbled by the kindness of others."

If you are in a position to give, please consider donating to the SVP's COVID-19 Emergency Fund so we can continue to be there for isolated and vulnerable people who need us most at this time.

Website: svp.org.uk

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Seeking Sanctuary in a COVID World

Not too long ago we had daily news coverage of the Asylum Seeker situation in Calais. The situation hasn't gone away despite the lack of media interest, but now we only hear about it when things go wrong - such as the discovery of the 58 dead Chinese migrants found in a sealed trailer in Dover twelve months ago.

Our thoughts in this update are influenced by the enormity of the pandemic crisis across the world, and in particular its effect on all those seeking sanctuary. We report on some of the direct effects on those concerned – a complete lack of access to centres and facilities which have been a lifeline in the past, the appalling sanitary conditions which spread infection, and the growing stigmatising of migrants as potential COVID carriers, as seen in our report on Calais buses which refuse to take migrants, seeing them as potential sources of infection. Advice on hand hygiene is of no use when there is not even a water tap in the places where many of those seeking sanctuary are forced to exist.

ARRIVING IN BRITAIN

At least 1,000 migrants arrived in Britain in small boats during the eight weeks following the start of the virus lock-down on 23 March. 145 arrived on 8 May alone, including 17 unaccompanied minors.

These claimed to be of various nationalities, including Iranian, Iraqi, Kuwaiti, Pakistani, Syrian, Yemeni and Afghan.

Kent officials face the tough task of dealing with the influx while social distancing measures are in place, to add financial pressures to local budgets. The county council, perhaps the most experienced in the UK, is concerned at the number of under-age arrivals. Whereas last year Kent dealt with around 240 young migrants, the number arriving this year reached 469 by 22 May, coming mainly from the Middle East, especially Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to caring for these 469 minors, mostly boys aged 15 to 17 (younger children are usually part of a family group), the council is also responsible for supporting 932 young people aged 18 to 25 who have left the care system.

The UK's hostile approach is based upon the assumption that migrants have chosen to come. But it is hardly a choice to leave destitution, poverty, climate breakdown, persecution, oppression and conflict. People would not take such enormous risks and live under such hostility if they were not desperate or had no other options.



THE CALAIS SITUATION

The outbreak of coronavirus and the consequent regulations have rendered an already bleak and desperate situation far bleaker. Prior to the virus outbreak, Northern France was home to between 1,500 and 2,000 migrants hoping to get to the UK and living on the outskirts of towns in abandoned warehouses, the edges of industrial estates and on barren wasteland. They continue to do so, the vast majority being male, aged 16 to 30.

At the moment in Calais, there are more Sudanese than a year ago, and still quite a few Iranians, Eritreans, Ethiopians, and some people from Mali and Mauritania who couldn't get asylum in France; also Afghans, but less than before. In Grande-Synthe, there is a great majority of Kurdish people from Iraq and a small group of Pakistanis. The proportion of Iranians has fallen in both locations.

There are very few families in Calais, plus a few single women, sometimes with young children. There are about 30 families among the Kurdish people in Grande-Synthe. As for lone minors, the count in early May was about 60 in Calais and up to 150 in Grande-Synthe.

Since the COVID-19 lock-down, most support organisations have either suspended or drastically reduced their services. Meantime, we still read reports of police brutality where migrants are beaten, tear-gassed and, in several instances, hospitalised – sadly, a relatively normal practice. With a lack of volunteers on the ground, there are far less observations and nobody is held to account. The few remaining aid workers now rely more than ever before on monetary donations.

Surely we should expect fair and proper treatment for those in distress, rather than sustained hostility?

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

This is marked on Saturday 20 June, at the end of Refugee Week, with the theme: 'Imagine'. We are keen to mark this in Dover because it is also the 20th anniversary of the discovery of the 58 dead Chinese migrants found in a sealed trailer at the port.

Ben Bano remembers well the traumatic impact on all involved – the reports of the impact on families who sent their young people abroad with such high hopes, the traffickers who saw the young people as objects rather than people, and not least the impact on the emergency service workers and port staff who had the gruesome task of dealing with the aftermath.

In keeping with the current pandemic restrictions, instead of asking people to gather, we will mark the day with a live-streamed time of remembrance from the Dover seafront starting at about 11.20 am. This considers all who have died trying to reach the UK, but especially the 58 Chinese.

The Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, will follow her predecessor, Bishop Trevor Willmott by leading the event and providing food for thought.



UNITED KINGDOM

There are concerns that more unaccompanied minors will be left in rapidly deteriorating conditions and at higher risk of exploitation in Europe since the Home Office confirmed that the 480 places it had offered under the 'Dubs Scheme' have been filled. There are renewed calls to bring unaccompanied child refugees to the UK – given that that thousands remain stranded in Europe.

Lord Alf Dubs, who proposed the amendment, said he was pleased for the 480 accepted under the scheme, but 'heartbroken' for the many more unaccompanied children who now have no hope of reaching safety in the UK.

HELP

Many of you will be wondering how you can help in these challenging times. Here in the UK, with access to support either suspended or severely limited, there are newly-created ways of financial help – such as a new scheme in the North East which provides £30 digital vouchers sent to the phones of refugees for use in supermarkets. You will find details here: <https://seekingsanctuary.weebly.com>. Other relevant organisations include the Jesuit Refugee Service (UK) and various members of the Caritas network of charities, plus Care4Calais operating in France. In the hope of better times ahead, we wish you safety and security.

Phil Kerton + Ben Bano.

See Raymond Daley for more complete information or write him at raymond@svp.org.uk

Many of us belong to wonderful HTSG house groups and thus are greatly enriched. Here, Jill Clough gives an overview of their mission and shares some reflections on their many benefits.

Our Parish House Groups

The inspiration of the House Groups – people meeting in private homes – was the early Church. In those days, Christians had to keep their faith hidden from the authorities. Happily, the House Group movement still flourishes all over the world.

House Groups ran in our parish in the 1980s and were revived in 2003, led by Fr. Chris Loughran. He invited interested parishioners to a series of meetings in the Parish Centre, at which we discussed a

rough outline of how they would operate. This parishioner-led process underpins House Groups. Together we arrived at this statement of Vision:

The purpose of House Groups is to:

- **Grow closer to God through prayer**
- **Develop a community of prayer in daily life**
- **Take the parish forwards**
- **Move outwards from comfort to evangelisation**
- **Learn and grow in faith**



We make this possible

- **by following a common structure (Welcome; Worship; Word; What Next?)**
- **by encouraging groups to have their own pace, needs and interests**
- **by seeing ourselves as part of the community of prayer in the parish**
- **The groups are centred in the Word of God.**

Parishioners devised a parish prayer, which House Groups still use (slightly modified):

God (our Father) you call us to be your Church here in this place. Please fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be empowered to serve you in our brothers and sisters in this community and to reach out to others in mission. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

We use many formats, including praying with art, or watching DVDs offering varying resources, and the *Wednesday Word*, to help us understand and deepen our faith – for the main reason for meeting regularly is to share, confidentially, and in a safe place, the issues of faith and life that concern us.

The Wednesday Word can be found here: <http://wednesdayword.org>

We create a handbook each year, which we print out for anyone in the parish to take. The contents change to reflect the annual Cycle of Prayer, the Seasons of the Church's year, and wider issues. In 2015, we used '*Laudato Si*', quoting many sections of the encyclical, including prayers and meditations, to complement it. This year (2019-2020) we have focused on the Cafod **livesimply** campaign.

Whilst the Salesian Sisters still lived at Brettargh Holt, we met as a whole – all House groups and anyone else who wanted to come – at Brettargh, to pray together, and have fun. We wanted families to join in who otherwise could not be part of the house group movement, and organised lots of activities for children of all ages to make it possible. Older members of the youth group were brilliant child-minders and leaders.

And, of course, we had tea and cakes.

We welcome parishioners who want to join a group for a specific Season, such as Lent or Advent. Over the years, membership of different groups varies, as people move in and out of the parish or (sadly) die, but a deep affection and respect builds up and is always retained. Whoever hosts the group usually provides refreshments, and we find ourselves celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, births, weddings, baptisms as well as funerals. Sometimes House Groups meet in a care home if a member of the group has to move, or change their place of meeting to accommodate the needs of a member. During Lent we

have sometimes worked together with other local churches, using the same materials, holding joint meetings.

Some groups go away together on retreat; others make occasional outings to Hying Convent, for a day's retreat. Some parishioners are very frail members, so that at least one person in each group needs clearance under the DBS scheme (Disclosure and Barring Service). Fortunately, this is now very easily renewed online, with no difficulty.

In my group, home-made cakes and biscuits often feature as we meet in the afternoon, but since the lockdown, we have been meeting virtually. We send the basic materials to one another, clipped from the House Group booklet, and from the *Wednesday Word* leaflet, produced each week. In this, Fr. Henry Wansbrough provides a commentary on each reading, and sets challenging questions to help us reflect on the readings. We don't always agree with his commentaries, but that makes for enjoyable discussion. Since we are unable to meet face to face, we email our reflections to one another, and comment on one another's thoughts.

What does it mean to be a member of a House Group?

This is one of the most important and rewarding aspects of parish life for me. Over the years I have made true, deep friendships based not on common interests or background, but on faith. I miss that weekly meeting very much. I look forward to reading what the others have to say about the coming Sunday readings. I hope that when we are able to meet again, others will consider joining the House Group movement. It's local, it's safe, it's a 'social bubble' of a very distinctive kind. I look forward to the full reopening of churches and celebrating Mass in church as well as in Spirit. In the meantime, being one of an active, loving House Group connects me to the parish as a whole.

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"It says on your CV that you were created in God's image.... Very impressive."

Some Thoughts about "Black Lives Matter"

By Pamela Boyes

At the present time we are immersed in the Black Lives Matter Protests and so I am including a poem written by Maya Angelou, one of a number of black writers and civil rights activists whose books my husband reads avidly! We have spent time in the US over the years visiting the Civil Rights Museums, etc. in various states, and on one visit to New York we went to Harlem and a service at the Abyssinian church. A vibrant community who were at the time collecting for the victims of the floods in New Orleans!

From the Harlem Renaissance to *Harlem Hopscotch*. Harlem is an area in the north of Manhattan, New York, and since the mass migration movements of 1905, it has had a largely African-

American population. Alongside its vibrant cultural history, however, Harlem has another history – one of poverty and deprivation. In Angelou’s poem, there is hardship and heartache, but the poem ends on a note of hope.

Harlem Hopscotch

One foot down, then hop! It’s hot.
Good things for the ones that’s got.
Another jump, now to the left.
Everybody for hisself.

In the air, now both feet down.
Since you black, don’t stick around.
Food is gone, the rent is due,
Curse and cry and then jump two.

All the people out of work,
Hold for three, then twist and jerk.
Cross the line, they count you out.
That’s what hopping’s all about.

Both feet flat, the game is done
They think I lost. I think I won.



Maya Angelou – April 4, 1928 - May 28, 2014

This is an event, known as the “Battle of Bamber Bridge,” that happened in June 1943 in a village just on the outskirts of my home town of Preston ~ a story passed on from old to young Prestonians.

77 years ago, The Detroit Riot saw poor whites and poor blacks fighting in the streets during wartime, an event stemming from racial discrimination, police brutality, and the falling material conditions of poor white Americans.

The anger spread to the village of Bamber Bridge in Lancashire days later. American troops were stationed there and the locals welcomed those from the black regiments into their pubs. Their white American superiors then requested the pubs be racially segregated, but the locals, in a cheeky act of malicious compliance, responded by putting out signs saying “Black Troops Only”. One of the white Military Police officers tried to arrest a black private at “Ye Olde Hob Inn” shortly after on the grounds of wearing the wrong jacket. This ultimately ended in an armed mutiny known as the “Battle of Bamber Bridge” – one black soldier dead and seven injured.



African American soldiers following a court martial in which they were found guilty of crimes during the Battle of Bamber Bridge. Image: Mervyn

These events in Bamber Bridge, and the wider history of regular British people supporting black GIs, have only received more coverage recently due to the efforts of African-American researchers and British locals.

Going further back, Bamber Bridge was built on the cotton industry. It was populated by landless farm labourers who were pushed to its mills, which were supplied with cotton picked by African-American slaves. The outbreak of the American Civil War caused mill closures and mass unemployment in Bamber Bridge, yet

the locals reacted with support for their African-American brethren by petitioning Parliament against the recognition of the American Confederacy.

When people question why race riots in America have anything to do with people in the UK, we must remember this history. Solidarity between the British working class and African-Americans is more than international camaraderie. These two groups came into existence through similar forces out of their control – exploited for their labour, their lives expendable. In many ways, that continues the case.

Time and again, history has shown that where black lives do not matter, working class lives of any colour do not matter, either. We must revive the spirit of Bamber Bridge and fight for material improvement for black people in the UK, not just to settle for token gestures of statues and TV episodes.

Whilst Bamber Bridge is now a large suburb of Preston, “Ye Old Hob Inn” is still there and looking good!



Cenacolo Update: Coming Out of Lockdown ***By Chris D’Arcy***

I welcome Raymond's invitation to share a few thoughts and an update about the lads at Cenacolo. Shortly after we went into nationwide lockdown on 23rd March, Fr. Hugh called me and asked how the lads were doing. I initially joked and said, "Fine, they've been in lockdown for 15 years, ever since the house first opened."

There is lots of Good News which I'm happy to share, but I'd like to go back a few steps first.

The Cenacolo Community was founded, as many of you know, by Mother Elvira in 1983 in Saluzzo, Northern Italy. Saluzzo is the 'Mother House', the first house. It is still at the heart of the Community.

You will know from the news how Italy, in particular Northern Italy, was one of the worst affected areas in Europe. This meant that Don Andrea, the priest that oversees the English-speaking houses, along with Don Stefano, who has assumed the role that Mother Elvira had for many years, had to make decisions that would keep the men and women in the houses in Italy and throughout the world safe.

This was particularly difficult for two men, one from London and one from Birmingham, who were on the brink of entering the community in Kendal. Unfortunately, the direction from Italy around 16th March was for the house to close to new men entering. The good news is that one of the men, with the support of a former lad, went direct to Ireland and, following an interesting route (which is an article in its own right), entered the community in Knock. The other man was welcomed into Kendal today - 15th June.

The meeting points, just like the one held in our parish on a Thursday and those around the country, can't physically meet. But like much of society, 'Zoom meetings' or old-fashioned telephone calls, are being used to share information about Cenacolo and prepare men and women to enter the community. It is worth reminding everyone that even though only men can enter in Kendal, women are supported in the UK to be welcomed direct to Italy.

In addition to continually praying for those individuals and their families whose lives are affected by drugs and alcohol, and at this time the impact of COVID, it is great news that the Community, throughout Europe, is open and able to welcome those struggling and needing the support of the Community once again.



When I last wrote, Bruno was 'the responsible' and led the house. He'd been in Kendal for over four years. Bruno was a passenger on one of the last scheduled flights to Italy leaving the UK on the 8th March. He is doing well in the Community House in Rome. Paolo is now in charge in Kendal and is doing a good job in these strange times.

Don Andrea, Fr. Chris Loughran and Paolo would want to join me in thanking you for your prayers and support for the lads in Kendal during this time. When Mother Elvira moved from the first house to open the second house, then the third and fourth houses in Italy, she showed complete trust in God. When she reflected on what was happening in those early days, she shared that she had no plan, only to do God's will, to trust and be open to the Holy Spirit. She spoke passionately about trusting completely in 'the Father' and knew that God, through you and people like you, would see to the rest – this is what we call 'providence'. Never in the 37 years since Mother Elvira welcomed the first guys has anyone gone hungry or not had more than they needed in community. This is true for the lads here in Kendal as well as those in the 65+ house around the world.

We all very much appreciate and give thanks for Fr. Hugh and the fantastic IT team who stream Sunday Mass. Likewise, we are all very much looking forward to physically meeting again to celebrate Mass as a parish family, receive Jesus through the Sacrament of Holy Communion and, for the lads, the providence basket at the back of church coming back into play.

There have been many 'hidden' acts of kindness during this time, mostly anonymous, some from people in the parish and further afield. You have continued to offer providence in your prayers and generosity with food or cash donations so we can buy food for the lads. It is wrong to single people out, but I know Mother Elvira would certainly tell our treasurer, "It is beautiful that she exists," and she "...is a gift from God." She has done a great job in this ministry. *Tante grazie!*

As lockdown restrictions have eased, it is possible to drop providence directly at Dodding Green, if you have the transport to do this. You will be given a warm welcome but, as with all aspects of society, the lads will need to respect social distancing and won't be able to invite you into the welcome room for a 'brew.' If you are in Kendal and not able to get to Dodding Green, I'm sure Fr. Hugh would receive any providence left for the lads via the back door and arrange for it to get to Dodding Green.

If you have access to the internet Paolo, with the help of our treasurer who also doubles as our IT consultant, has been putting a weekly update on the website: www.cenacolouk.org. This is a good place to look for news and updates.

Along with being able to welcome new men, normality is slowly returning, with Fr. Chris being able to complete his weekly visits.

In line with what society is asked to do by central government and listening to what Don Andrea is requesting of the community from Italy, Paolo and the lads are looking forward to welcoming the friends that live locally back for the first Wednesday Mass once this can be celebrated again. We remain optimistic that the December Open Day will be able to go ahead, and we can have a belated celebration from May when we had planned to celebrate and give thanks for the 15th Anniversary of our house, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs.



Mary, Mother of Cenacolo, Pray for Us.

United in Prayer,

Chris

“Learn to look at things familiar until they look unfamiliar again.

Familiarity is the greatest of all illusions.”

GK Chesterton

We now return to the continuing wartime memories of Kathleen (Shaw) Hargreaves' father. Wounded by a mine at Enfideville, he was evacuated to Egypt for treatment. Wherever next...?

Wartime Memories of an English Soldier: Part 6

by Sapper Gerard Hargreaves

After that, I spent a couple of days in a New Zealand CCS. There were nurses there, and in passing I must say a word of tribute to them, for they were certainly playing a heroine's part. Even for a man, it was a tough job. It was a butcher's shop, that place. Men with limbs amputated every day, and the

nurses were worked off their feet. They had a lot of heavy lifting to do, too. There were also men orderlies.

It was sad, though, among these sorrowing men. The mental pain they were suffering was worse than the physical, for they were thinking of going back home to their wives with a limb missing and not being able to earn a proper living. There were Germans and Italians in the ward, too, and they received the same treatment as anyone else. All were equal in that hospital.

I was only there a couple of days and moved on to another at Sousse (Sfax.) This time I was put in a bed next to a German. He couldn't speak English, this bloke, but before long he was offering me cigarettes from his pack. In the same ward was a German sailor who had had quite an adventurous time on the way to giving himself up to the English, being attacked once by Arabs and then by French who took everything of value that he had. He could speak a little English, having been in English ports and, being a bit of a comedian, kept the ward entertained. He was a bit of a communist, too.

This hospital was a convent, and the nuns were still living in part of it. When I first came there, after leaving the reception tent I was sent to a big marquee with a sign at the entrance: "MAJOR HEAD OPERATIONS." I thought, "I'm for it, now." Anyway, there was a nurse in attendance there, and I was told first to lie on a bed. Eventually, they brought in a big bloke on a stretcher, and they laid the stretcher on the bed next to me. Well, this bloke had been hit on the head by some heavy weight (I forget what now), but there wasn't a mark or bump on his head at all. He must have had a tough one! Well, he had a look round, and up he got off the stretcher and got onto another bed. Then he started nodding his head, grinning at me and jabbering away. I began to get the windup. Then he pulled out a bundle of notes and offered them to me, grinning all the time. Eventually, they came for him and told him to get out of the bed and onto the stretcher. But would he move...? Not him. He just lay back with his hands behind his head and a vacant look on his face, and a job they had to get him onto the stretcher! When they did get him on, he sat up and wouldn't lie down. I was glad to see the last of him!



After a couple of days at this hospital, I was away again, back to base and an overcrowded CCS. The ward tents must have been full up, for we lay on stretchers in a reception tent. There were more Italians and Germans than there were English in this tent. We had very little food and it was very bad. I had my small pack with me and in it the iron rations, so I consumed that lot before I left there.

The next move was onto a hospital ship, and a week's sailing brought us to Aden, where a hospital train took us to... Palestine, but on the Suez Canal. I had quite a nice time at the hospital. The shrapnel was eventually removed from my arm. During my time there, I was attended by a Catholic doctor, by name Joseph Maguire. It was while here that I met also Dr. Jones of this parish, and very pleased I was to see a face from St. Mary's, the first one I had come across. There were two hospitals together there, the next one being a hospital for nerve cases. Well, the Catholic chapel was in this next hospital and I spotted Dr. Jones at Mass. I didn't get a word with him the first time I saw him, but the next Sunday I was out of Mass before him and caught him coming out. I was very pleased to see him and I will always remember him saying, "By, there's some crackers in here, but I like the work!" Of course, he was working in the mental hospital. He said there was another bloke from St. Mary's working in the post office in

that hospital. He didn't know his name but knew his face. However, I couldn't very well wander round that hospital, looking for the post office, or they might have kept me in!

...more next issue!

“What the resurrection teaches us is not how to live
but how to live again, and again, and again!”

John Shea

LiveSimply Update

By Caroline D’Arcy

Since drawing up our LiveSimply parish plan, we have been taking action in lots of ways to work towards the goals of living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. Encouraging email bulletins and pot plants on the altar, ideas for eco-friendly cleaning products, bulk loo roll orders, and a recycling talk, a focus on livesimply in house groups and a continuing commitment to our parish link with Malawi, Mary’s Meal’s, Cenacolo, the winter shelter and the shoebox appeal.

We had plans for a focus on walking, cycling and car sharing to attend Mass in these spring and summer months, but sharing Mass together virtually has probably reduced our carbon footprint even further!

Another of our LiveSimply plan actions is to try and share some favourite vegetarian and vegan recipes. For several years now, climate scientists have been encouraging us to eat less meat in order to cut greenhouse gas emissions and reduce other environmental impacts. Replacing just a few meals with a veggie alternative might seem like a small action but would really help, as well as reducing the miles our food travels by using local and in-season ingredients. We’d love to create a parish ‘LiveSimply’ recipe book to reflect these goals. Please email your favourite vegetarian and vegan recipes to HTSGcommunity@gmail.com, stating how many average portions the recipe makes and how you’d like your name to appear in the book. Thank you.



In this time of the coronavirus, we continue to pray for all those affected by the virus both here in the UK and overseas. CAFOD have launched an emergency appeal for funds, because the impact of coronavirus in countries with poor health systems will be devastating. Families without enough to eat, access to clean water, living with HIV or in cramped refugee camps are very vulnerable to the virus. CAFOD are working with local experts in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East to help people survive both the virus and the lockdown measures. Donations can be made to CAFOD

(<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal> or over the phone by calling CAFOD on 0303 303 3030).

As the world works together to survive, rebuild and heal, this is an opportunity for our leaders to create a greener, fairer and more just society. CAFOD have launched a petition (<https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1>) asking our Prime Minister to ensure that poor countries get a fair deal in the worldwide response to the pandemic. They are asking that our government works together with other world leaders to:

- Make sure that any vaccine developed with UK public money is made available to everyone, regardless of their income or where in the world they live.
- Provide urgent financial and technical support to help developing countries cope with this crisis.
- Cancel all debt payments by developing countries due in 2020-2021 so that countries can spend money on much-needed healthcare rather than debt repayments.
- Put plans in place to rebuild a fairer, more just society after the crisis so that the world's most vulnerable people can live in dignity and to restore our common home for future generations.



On 30th June, CAFOD is teaming up with the Climate Coalition who is hosting **The Time is Now virtual lobby** for a healthy, green and fair recovery from COVID-19. Campaigners will be asking MPs to meet with them over

Zoom to join them in calling for a recovery that puts people at its heart, focuses on tackling the climate crisis and nature's decline, and protects the most vulnerable in the UK and around the world. You can take part in this virtual discussion with your MP. Your voice can make a difference. You can sign up and see more details of how to participate at www.theclimatecoalition.org and watch the short film on YouTube [#TheTimelsNow](https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/thetimelsnow).

The Global Catholic Climate Movement is promoting a Season of Creation resource and you can watch the short film with Pope Francis at www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/let-us-unite-in-the-celebration-of-the-season-of-creation.html.

'There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself.'
Pope Francis

Thanks for all the actions you are all taking on the LiveSimply journey.

A Final Thought in Trying Times

Do not be afraid to suffer; give
the heaviness back to the weight of the earth;
mountains are heavy; seas are heavy.

Rainer Maria Rilke