



CHURCH AT HOME

Issue 44: May 8th 2021

Welcome, brothers and sisters to the Forty Fourth edition of "Church at Home".

The past week has been really quite difficult. Pippa's Mum very suddenly was taken ill and has been in hospital since then. We are at the time in our lives that the care direction between our generations is going in the other way. Children caring for parents rather than the other way around.

Family is front and centre in the Bible. It's not surprising when you consider many generations often lived in one house and older people were very vulnerable if they didn't have the support of the younger generation.

Family is so important that it is one of the 10 commandments – "Honour your mother and father". It's highlighted throughout, including in the Psalms ("Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him." Psalm 127) and in the Proverbs ("Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children." Proverbs 17:6).

So, take care of your family. Be kind to one another and repair anything that needs mending.

Follow the guidance, encourage each other, pray and stay safe.

Rev Clive

Church Noticeboard

Living in Love and Faith Webinars

To book any of these webinars please email
rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com

ROCHESTER DIOCESAN EVANGELICAL
FELLOWSHIP

***Living in Love and Faith
webinar series.***

Spring-Summer 2021
All Sessions: 1 pm - 2 pm

Wed 21st April-LLF an introduction
DR MARTIN DAVIE

**Wed 19th May-How we can help same-sex-attracted
Christians to flourish**
DR SEAN DOHERTY

**Wed 23rd June-Biblical hermeneutics in LLF:
what's going on?**
DR CHRIS WRIGHT

**Wed 21st July-Biblical anthropology: how do we
understand identity?**
DR KIRSTEN BIRKETT

Dates for your diary

Saturday 10th July - Church Celebration BBQ

Sunday 31st October – Dougie Dug Dug

More information to come.

Mission Giving to India Appeal

Our Church follows the Biblical principle of tithe giving. A percentage of our income is allotted to mission giving each year. The money is split into five "pots". Each of our mission partners gets a "pot" and the final one is reserved for other giving. The Mission Outreach Group has elected to give £500 from this pot to Disasters Emergency Committee's India Appeal this week.

Mission Reps

Are you passionate about mission? If you are, then we are looking for mission representatives for Beryl Baker and CRiBS. The mission reps will sit on our Mission Outreach Group (MOG) which meets approximately 4 times a year and co-ordinates our mission partners, responds to emergency appeals, advocates for mission in the church and decides on mission spending at St Paul's.

Communion Linen

Are you able to get wine stains out of white linen? We need someone to wash our communion fabrics on a regular basis. Mostly the small napkins but approximately once a month the table cloth as well. Contact Clive or Lauraine for more details.

Zoom service login.

Use the following to access our online services

[Join Zoom Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86786281546?pwd=OWRtVC9BcXBka21nalpPR0ViSFZKUT09)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86786281546?pwd=OWRtVC9BcXBka21nalpPR0ViSFZKUT09>

Meeting ID: 867 8628 1546

Passcode: Paul



St Paul's Preschool
A Church of England Preschool – Est 1976
Ofsted - Good Provider
£5 per hour* (local government 15 & 30 hour grants available)
Places available*

For more details or to organise a visit
Phone 07752 776226
St Paul's Church Hall
Mill Road
North Heath
Erith
DA8 1HN

Diocese of Rochester

*Correct at time of printing

The advertisement is set against a background of various colorful toys including interlocking gears, a blue airplane, a red and blue toy car, a yellow toy car, a yellow pencil holder with pencils, a green marker, a blue marker, an orange pencil, and a ball of colorful string. In the bottom left corner, there is a small inset photo of a smiling young girl with blonde hair, with the text 'Learning ABC is fun' and colorful letters 'A B C' overlaid on the image.

This week's prayer

**God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

Prayer

**There are many who still need our prayers.
Those who have asked for our prayers are:** Ann
Easter, Ann Batchelor (Reader at St Martin's), Andrew Bennett,
Charles Brooke, Ron and Joan Handy. For Marjorie and Eileen
Hoare, Pippa's Mum - Helen Janes, Monica Lindridge, Christine
Meaton and Christine Minns. For Carol & John O'Connor, John
Ralph and Amanda Ralph. For Jane & George Stafford. For Karen
Vaughan (Cameo), Jeanette Watts and Mark Williams.

Please pray for those taking exams in May & June.
Sophie Tyler takes her final degree exams between now and the 7th June.
If you are taking exams and want to be prayed for please let Clive know.

What you're up to. – Pictures and messages



Margaret & Ron Richards with
Monica Lindridge
Fun at Kemsing (See page 7)



Lauraine Wells & Family
Boating Holiday on the Norfolk Broads.



Carol O'Connor
Walking in Hall Place



Monica, Bob & Family
After 5 months, we have met up with all
our children and grandchildren!!



Gavin, Clair & Noah Gill
Noah with his fractured arm which
he done in the school playground
on Tuesday. And a pic of us at the
'drive in' cinema in chingford
watching 'Tom and Terry', we had
a great time.

Please send me your pictures and messages to each other. Let's encourage each other and stay in touch. It will be good to see familiar faces each week. revclive@hotmail.co.uk 5



Throughout our 175-year history, we have sought to be a confident and effective voice into every layer of society on behalf of the evangelical church in the UK.

Our work in public policy is vital to this. We are currently recruiting a head of public policy, so please apply or share with anyone who would be suitable for this role. As we at the Evangelical Alliance seek to be a brave and kind voice, this appointment is crucial.

Members of our advocacy team have in recent months been encouraging job creation. As the current unemployment crisis affects so many, this is a powerful time for the church to step in – to pray, to create new jobs and to offer support and hope to the many who are unemployed at this time.

So we've produced a new prayer resource, Job Creation Project: Prayer fuel pack. The pack can be used for personal and small group prayer, and there is a streamlined version available as presentation slides for wider church prayer meetings.

In other news, just a few weeks ago, our team in Northern Ireland hosted a Zoom coffee break to give church and Christian organisation leaders the opportunity to hear from those ministering in interface areas affected by the recent riots and protests.

It was such a privilege for the team to pray for those involved and better understand the complexity of the underlying issues as they consider how best to serve in the days ahead. Will you join me in praying for my colleagues, the wider church and for God's peace in Northern Ireland?

Every blessing,

Gavin Calver
CEO, Evangelical Alliance

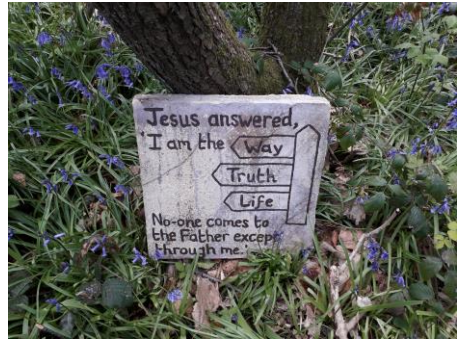
Bluebell woods above Kemsing



Together with Bob & Monica we again visited these woods to enjoy the Celandines, Wood Anemones and wonderful Bluebells. This time we were also blessed to enjoy a woodland walk illustrating the stations of the cross from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday's resurrection and later Ascension. Members of the Kemsing and Woodlands churches had beautifully illustrated the Easter story on logs of wood with pictures and verses. This is to remain in the woods until after Ascension Day 13 May. Even if you go later, you can still enjoy the Bluebell Woods.

If you wish to go and experience this for yourselves, we parked (outside the, now closed Sunrise pub) in Cotmans Ash Lane, which is a turning off left in the narrowest part of the Pilgrims Way at crossroads above Kemsing. The walk started at a left-hand footpath (off the road 75 yards beyond the pub car park) between some houses, across a field, through the woods where we sat on a seat amongst the bluebells. We followed the path through a gate, diagonally across a field and passing Oakhall Christian Centre, down steep track for 100 yards, turning left up and passed Oakhall again and taking the footpath through woods where the first illustration of Palm Sunday began. Enjoy!

7



What are the Roots that Clutch?

By A. Soule

It is often said that poetry can articulate truths hidden deep in our subconscious. This is particularly true in the case of TS Eliot's 'The Waste Land' which touched the general mood of the western world at the end of the Great War. It speaks of a time in our history when not many families were left untouched by grief and despair. A great many families then had to deal with deaths in their immediate family - of their husband, father, brother, a loved one or someone they knew.

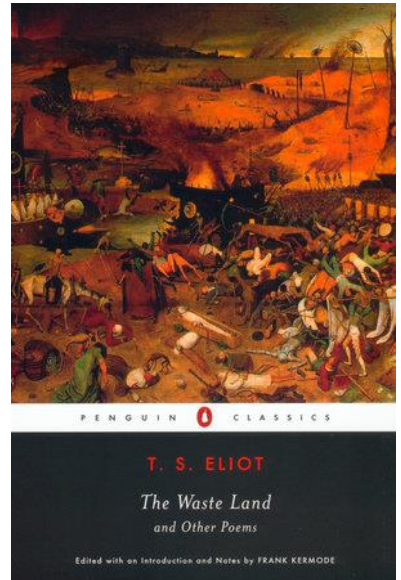
The old optimism of the nineteenth century that things in the end would turn out well had

crumbled. Many came to accept that the governing principle of life was plain absurdity- after all nothing else then made sense. The poem in describing the dark mood of those times poses a deeply existential question, set out in Section 1 of the poem as:

What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow out of this stony rubbish?

Leaving aside the permutations of poetic interpretations with what follows next in the poem; the question as it stands is pretty direct, what is it that holds us together? How are we to live having seen death and destruction around us?

The poem was written in 1922, and despite the decades which followed, the question still haunts us. We still seek assurance of having something really strong and abiding to hold on to, something which can sustain ⁹ us - renew us.



At the time when the poem was published, most people felt they had had a belly full of simplistic platitudes, which seemed to fall far short of what they were actually going through. What was needed then and even now perhaps, is a basic acknowledgment that there are no straightforward answers as to why despair and grief accompany life. How we feel about things, cannot simply be brushed aside as not being material fact. For in the end what we are left with are our feelings, they are the experience of reality for us. We are what we are shaped by our doubts, insecurities and belief.

It is also fair to say that how we act and decide in life is in a large measure guided by what we believe in. A life based in the acknowledgment of our inadequacy, God's abiding love for us and a sense of duty to care for fellow beings can land us in a different place to where we might end up in a life dictated by anxiety and doubt.

The first port of call for many of us in understanding what life is all about is in our relationships with each other, within families and friends, who often hold a mirror to us to see how we really are. But there are times when the glass cracks; friends and family who you expect support from let you down.

A rather haunting example of this is described in a beautifully written poem by Thomas Hood, called the 'Bridge of Sighs'. A young woman turned out by her parents, for some misdemeanour in their eyes (possible pregnancy), throws herself down Waterloo bridge and dies. As she stood near the bridge trying to decide what to do

next, there was no one there to hold her hand, to talk to her, bring her into shelter and warmth; all she had in her mind were the harsh words spoken to her by her family. The stanzas below from the poem are particularly heart wrenching:

Alas! for the rarity
Of Christian charity
Under the sun!
O, it was pitiful!
Near a whole city full,
Home she had none.

Sisterly, brotherly,
Fatherly, motherly
Feelings had changed:
Love, by harsh evidence,
Thrown from its eminence;
Even God's providence
Seeming estranged.



There was deep hurt somewhere, and a complete absence of those she expected to stand by her or understand her. Everything around her seemed to say 'no one cares'.

Christian charity which the poet refers to would surely mean more than just slipping a fiver in her lap and quickly walking on. It is the ability to stand alongside the vulnerable, having the patience to listen and do all one can to help. But it needn't be large gestures which are always needed. Very often what's needed is just standing alongside the person and a kind word. After all, there is something more than just two square meals a day which keeps us ticking along.

Words can give us most joy but they can also be a cause of great sorrow. Something said or unsaid can make all the difference at times. The feeling that someone cares is what we hold on to. A world of indifference and apathy is certainly far from what Christianity is about.

Note; The full poem can be accessed online at this link:
<https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-bridge-of-sighs>

Books

This week's book suggestions come from Essential Christian



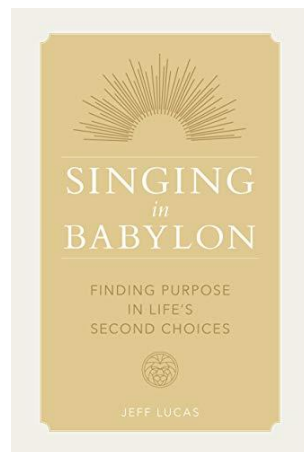
Until Unity by Francis Chan

Many seek reassurance or perceived unity by creating doctrinal statements, but that misses the point. Doctrine is necessary but it is not the solution.

Do we truly understand the gospel? Do we believe in the miracle of the Holy Spirit in us? As believers, Christians are supposed to yield the fruit of supernatural love for one another. Instead, we allow jealousy and selfish ambition to prevail.

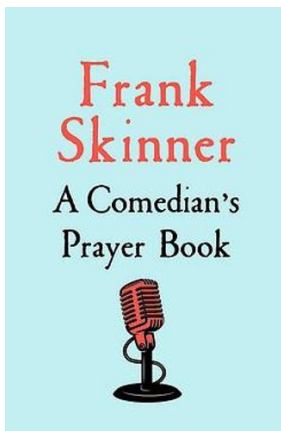
Singing in Babylon by Jeff Lucas

Everyone has to live with second choices—events and circumstances that they would not choose, some trivial, some tragic. Daniel was a man whose life was filled with second choices, but he did more than just survive; he stayed faithful to God and *thived*. So what is there to learn from his story in Scripture? Pastor and author Jeff Lucas challenges readers to ask, "How can we, like Daniel, be faithful in the 'Babylon' of second choices?"



A Comedian's Prayer Book by Frank Skinner

God is a tough audience as far as audible response is concerned, but at least you don't have to explain the references. In this collection of prayers, much-loved comedian, broadcaster and radio host Frank Skinner has tried to retain the bare candour of the rehearsal-room improvisation - to show what faith feels like, from the inside - but infused it with all the production values required to make it a passable public entertainment. In it are his 12 convictions, his questions, his fears, his doubts, his elations - all presented in an eavesdropper-friendly form.



Abena Oppong-Assare

MP for the majority of our Parish



As you will know, the latest stage of the Covid roadmap began on April 12th, when businesses including non-essential retail and outdoor hospitality were allowed to reopen.

This was very good news for many

local businesses as they begin to trade again after months of closure. During the reopening week, I visited a range of businesses across the constituency, including local shops, cafes, and pubs. I offered my support as they get back on their feet and begin to serve our community again.

I also recently spoke in a debate in Parliament on the hospitality industry, where I outlined the struggles many in this sector have faced over the last year. Not only have they been closed for many months, but when they have been allowed to open, they have faced a constantly changing set of rules and regulations. Many have not received the financial support they needed from the Government, and many are fearful for their future.

I will continue to speak up for Erith and Thamesmead businesses in Parliament. Too many of them have been let down by the Government over the last year.

On the 8th March we marked International Women's Day. I used the parliamentary debate on IWD to celebrate local women making a difference in our community.

They included Dr Sam Parrett OBE, principal of London and South East Education Group, who has done so much to ensure that young people were supported throughout the pandemic; Sue Stockham, an ovarian cancer survivor, who is using her experience to raise awareness about the signs of ovarian cancer and the importance of getting help quickly during the pandemic; Carmel Britto who is the founding director of LPF Kiddies Club, which offers educational enrichment to young children from African and Caribbean backgrounds; Kate Heaps who is

chief executive of Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice; and Yeukai Taruvinga who is the founder and director of Active Horizons, a charity that works to support black and ethnic minority young people in Bexley.

I also paid tribute to the countless women who have served on the frontline in our constituency during the pandemic as doctors, nurses, carers, cleaners, and other key workers. I could not name them all, but we must not forget the sacrifices they have made and the burden that has fallen on them.

I spoke in a debate on the impact of the pandemic on people with a disability. I took this opportunity to raise concerns on behalf of constituents and local organisations - including Inclusion London and the Greenwich Association of Disabled People - including access to food during the pandemic, support for children with disabilities, and access to transport.

I also took part in a debate on Black maternal healthcare. Shockingly, black women are four times more likely to die during pregnancy or up to six weeks postpartum, women of mixed heritage are three times more likely to die, and Asian women are twice as likely to die. Each loss of life is a tragedy, and that disparity is unacceptable. It needs to be understood and it needs to change. I am proud to support the Five X More campaign to push the Government and NHS to take urgent action in this area.























Finally, I spoke in a debate on online abuse of women elected representatives. I am determined that all women who take part in public life should not be subject to appalling abuse online. In the debate, I spoke about some of my own experiences as well as praising organisations, such as Glitch and the Jo Cox Foundation, working to end abuse of women online.

As part of my role as Shadow Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, I have been scrutinising the Government's Finance Bill. The Finance Bill is an annual piece of legislation which gives effect to the Budget. I believe that the Government has the wrong priorities in this Bill. It is hitting families in their pockets while cutting social security and handing our key workers – including our NHS heroes – a real-terms pay cut.

In debates in the chamber and in committee, I have spoken on a number of ¹⁴ important areas which affect people in Erith and Thamesmead and across the country.

Official UK Christian & Gospel Albums Chart

Top 20

Pos	LW	Title, Artist	Peak Pos	W.o.C
1	1	 CLOUDS NF NF REAL MUSIC	1	5
2	2	 THE SEARCH NF NF REAL MUSIC	1	92
3	3	 JESUS IS KING KANYE WEST EMI	1	79
4	5 ↑	 VITAL SIGNS SKILLET WARNER BROS	2	308
5	4 ↓	 BELIEVE ANDREA BOCELLI DECCA	1	24
6	7 ↑	 LOOK UP CHILD LAUREN DAIGLE CENTRICITY MUSIC	1	48
7	8 ↑	 MANSION NF CCMG	1	194
8	6 ↑	 FREEDOM.	3	3
				
9	10 ↑	 AWAKE SKILLET ATLANTIC	2	373
10	11 ↑	 THERE IS MORE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	1	160
11	9 ↓	 MY SAVIOR CARRIE UNDERWOOD EMI	3	5
12	12	 UNLEASHED SKILLET ROADRUNNER	1	247
13	16 ↑	 VICTORIOUS SKILLET WARNER RECORDS	3	88
14	17 ↑	 AWAKE HILLSONG WORSHIP HILLSONG MUSIC	2	80
15	15	 GREATEST HITS (THE ATLANTIC YEARS) POD ATLANTIC	6	99
16	20 ↑	 GRAVES INTO GARDENS - LIVE ELEVATION WORSHIP ELEVATION WORSHIP	2	46
17	Re	 VICTORY - LIVE BETHEL MUSIC BETHEL MUSIC	1	103
18	18	 JUST BE HELD - CASTING CROWNS FAVORITES CASTING CROWNS REUNION	12	60
19	14 ↓	 PEOPLE - LIVE HILLSONG UNITED HILLSONG MUSIC	1	64
20	19 ↓	 THE ESSENTIAL KIRK FRANKLIN KIRK FRANKLIN VERITY	10	35

DITLOIDS

1	15 M on a DMC	
2	32 P on a CB	
3.	36 I in a Y	
4.	10 E in a D	
5.	26 L in the A	
6.	52 C in a P	
7.	22 B on a ST	
8.	8 F in a M	
9.	5 A in R and J	
10.	28 D in F	
11.	3600 S in an H	
12	1.44 Mb on a FD	
13	35 BK on a P	
14	3 P on a P	
15	7 D in SW	
16	4 W on a C	
17	24 H from T	
18	12 S of the Z	
19	18 H on a GC	
20	7 S on a FPP	

THE FOLLOWING ARE AL ANAGRAMS OF WELL-KNOWN COCKTAILS:

- 1. Gingersnap Oils**
- 2. Topical Moons**
- 3. Burial Snacks**
- 4. Nurse Qualities**
- 5. Italy Runs**
- 6. A Tenth Fathered Onion**
- 7. Beaten Ski**
- 8. Fooled Danish**
- 9. Bacon Steroids**
- 10. Badly Roomy**

Photography



Cherry Blossoms at Greenwich Park by Grace Allan



Tree Engraving at Lesnes Abby by
Linda Mayes

Poets Corner

What will I do?

*What will I do without your touch,
A hand to calm, an arm's embrace?
What will I do without your voice,
Stern words to guide, soft whispers of love?
What will I do without those eyes,
That said "I care" or don't approve!
What will I do without you here,
Secure in strength and worldly wise?*

*What I shall do is remember your love,
The security and the wisdom given.
What I shall do is pass on your care,
Your guiding words and hand of calm.
What I shall do is love you still,
Until we meet again in Heaven.
What I shall do is seek God's hand,
His love and grace can lead me there.*

Thank you

To all those who give regularly towards the mission and ministry of St Paul's

Use this information to set up regular giving through your bank

Code 60-15-28 Account No: 66526434.

Account Name: St Paul's Church.

Reference: your name

Quiz answers

DITLOIDS – 1 ANSWERS

1	15 M on a DMC	15 Men on a Dead Man's Chest
2	32 P on a CB	32 Pieces on a Chess Board
3.	36 I in a Y	36 Inches in a Yard
4.	10 E in a D	10 Events in a Decathlon
5.	26 L in the A	26 Letters in the Alphabet
6.	52 C in a P	52 Cards in a Pack
7.	22 B on a ST	22 Balls on a Snooker Table
8.	8 F in a M	8 Furlongs in a Mile
9.	5 A in R and J	5 Acts in Romeo and Juliet
10.	28 D in F	28 Days in February
11.	3600 S in an H	3600 Seconds in an Hour
12	1.44 Mb on a FD	1.44 Megabites on a Floppy Disk
13	35 BK on a P	35 Black Keys on a Piano
14	3 P on a P	3 Pins on a Plug
15	7 D in SW	7 Dwarves in Snow White
16	4 W on a C	4 Wheels on a Car
17	24 H from T	24 Hours from Tulsa
18	12 S of the Z	12 Signs of the Zodiac
19	18 H on a GC	18 Holes on a Golf Course
20	7 S on a FPP	7 Sides on a Fifty Pence Piece

Cocktail Answers: 1. Singapore Sling; 2. Cosmopolitan; 3. Black Russian; 4. Tequila Sunrise; 5. Rusty Nail; 6. Death in the Afternoon; 7. Snakebite; 19 8. Old Fashioned; 9. Boston Sidecar; 10. Bloody Mary

