



7th edition, 14 June 2020

This “meme” appeared in one of the pages I follow on Facebook in recent weeks and it struck a cord with the way we are living out our lives at present (as well as in the grammatical error). There we all were, getting on with the old “normal”, when along came Covid-19 to turn our world upside down. We’ve been given the chance, or to some extent forced, to change the way we live and conduct our lives, at home, at work, and in other areas like church and recreational activities. We have the opportunity at St. Andrew’s to look at some of the things that we have perceived as “tradition” and “normal”; the things that have always been done and no one wants to change because of fear that they will ire too many people. Now is the time to think about how we can sharpen that pencil to write a new profile and give us a new St. Andrew’s that will attract a Minister who can lead and guide us in all aspects of our mission and church life.

One of the traditions that will undoubtedly remain is that of the various festivals and significant dates in the Church calendar. The first Sunday in June was Trinity Sunday, a time to think of the “three in one”. I think that must have been playing more of a significant role in my mind this past week as I completed my “three in one”, namely shower, basin and toilet of the shower room project — now all secured in place, connected up and, most importantly, not leaking everywhere. But, in the same way that the Holy Trinity needs more from us to come to fruition in our lives, so my other trinity still needs some work before it can be considered to be complete. There’s a bit more decoration to do, flooring, ceiling and lights to go in, and then, perhaps, I will be content and happy to say “it is done and it is good”... or perhaps, like our Christian lives, it will never be perfect and I will need to keep looking at ways that it can be improved.

Stay safe everyone, God is with us!

Tim



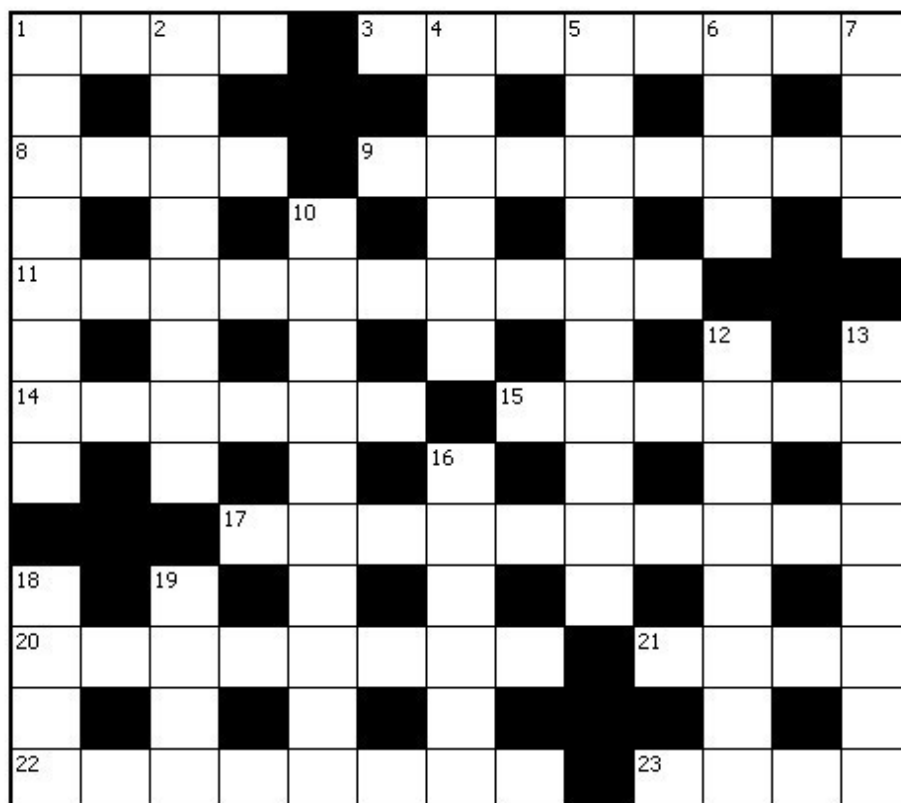
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Dust the bibles off again for this crossword!



Across

- 1 See 23 Across
 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
 8 Invalid (4)
 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)

23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
 4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in —, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
 7 Swirling current of water (4)
 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was —, to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
 16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

Answers on page 7

Please do send in your feedback, amusing stories, photos, poems, prayers, thank you notes, reflections, memories and anything else you think fitting to include in *Newstand Life*. They can be emailed to standrewsnewstand@gmail.com or posted to Tim Cooke, 4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR

Minister's Musings

Dear Friends,

It's nearly three months since we went into lockdown....I can hardly believe it. Many of us continue to be very careful as lockdown eases. In truth, I am finding the easing of lockdown to be more stressful and worrisome than lockdown was. Although I'm very grateful and happy to be having an occasional socially distanced swim with a mate in the sea, I fear that others may be taking risks that will cause more infections and deaths. I wonder when we will be able to start living without some level of fear and trepidation.

In my more sane, less nervous times, I am interested in what we might be learning through this time. The media outlet Vox conducted a small survey of people around the world and of different ages about what changes they've made in lockdown that they would like to keep for the long run. Here are the **top eight lockdown habits** that people want to continue doing after lockdown:

- 1) By far the most popular response was **reducing consumerism**. This resonates with me. I look at all my stuff and think a) I don't need a lot of this and b) I need to stop bringing in new things. Some added that they target their shopping towards small, local businesses – which have really struggled during this period.
- 2) **Slowing down and putting less pressure on themselves**. Maybe we don't need to be so busy. Having time to breathe, reflect and focus is a gift.

The top eight lockdown habits that people want to continue doing after lockdown

- 3) **Prioritising family and friends**. Yes, please!
- 4) **Ethical action and activism in our interconnected world**. Donating, volunteering, wanting to live right with each other and on the planet are high on the list.
- 5) **Exercising daily**. Turns out a daily walk is good for mental and physical health. And it's free.
- 6) **Baking, vegetarian cooking and growing herbs**. My expanding waistline testifies to an increased interest in food.
- 7) **Spending more time in nature**. Yep.
- 8) **Working from home if possible**. I already mostly do this so I know the benefits and challenges. It's the reduced environmental impact that is the bonus now.

I can see the hand of God in these resolutions. Being connected to each other and to the natural world is part of God's design of an interconnected creation. Some of the unthinking habits that ruled our days before lockdown harmed ourselves, other people or the planet. The resolutions are also spiritual in that we will need help – from God and each other – to keep them. It is good to remember Paul's words: *All things (even difficult things) work together for good for those who love God...* (Romans 8:28). May it be so among us.

In Christian love,

Carla

The Reopening of St Andrew's — keeping you up to date

Survey Questions

Thank you for taking the time and trouble to respond with your views and feelings as to how soon we should try and re-open St Andrew's for worship and other activities and also giving us an indication as to when you would feel able to return to church. Things seem to be changing all the time and sometimes with very little notice. If you have not yet responded, do please give me a phone call (0191 252 3319).

Opening for private prayer

Last weekend the Government announced that from 15th June churches could open for private prayer. As this was a suggestion that was 'sprung' upon us at short notice, the Revd Carla Grosch-Miller, Chris Hales, Bill Hopper and I held a discussion concerning the possibility of opening St Andrew's. Contrary to the picture painted in some sections of the media, it is not simply a case of opening the doors and letting people come in. To implement opening St Andrew's for private prayer, even for one person, would require a whole scheme of control being put in place including sanitising/cleaning procedures after each visitor. Whilst all the relevant equipment, sanitisers, PPE etc are on order, in anticipation of a possible opening for worship etc later this year, they will not be available until sometime in mid to late August at the earliest.

Whilst therefore being sympathetic to the suggestion that St Andrew's should open for private prayer, it was our view, endorsed by the Elders, that this was not practicable or possible at the present time.

Take care and keep safe.

Ray

Following my recent fall I would like to say a big thank you to Kathleen and Barbara for the flowers and cake which has helped brighten me up in what is a somewhat trying time. Also to those who have telephoned to check on my health. The bad news was that whilst one wrist was broken, an X-ray this week showed a break in the other. On the positive side at least these days you can't go far, and I do have an excellent unpaid cook and bottle washer.

Mary Christopher

Tuesday Prayers—at 9:30

Everyone has a part.

Let us come together in prayer

Back then there were twelve.
Here and now, there is us.
Back then they followed you in the flesh.
Today, we follow in your Spirit.
Back then, there were but a few.
Today, we are part of a worldwide church.
Here and now, we are your disciples
to follow you and to serve you.
Amen.

Prayer of Adoration

Loving God,
we are made in your image and called to
follow your Son, Jesus, the risen Christ.
We gather at this time of prayer to
acknowledge your love for us revealed in
Jesus Christ.
In these strange days, our gatherings are
very different, apart, yet united by our
love for you.
We are discovering new ways to come
together, and come in adoration and
thanks for all the great gifts — the talents
and skills of invention and development
that allow us to reach out to people in our
communities and beyond to take your
Word out into the world.
Lord God we offer these prayers in your
name.
Amen.

In a Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, Lord, when we fail you, when
we choose our own way instead of yours.
Forgive us, Lord, for our frailties, help us
move forward determined to be more like
the people you created us to be, using
our gifts and talents for the work of your
kingdom, here and now.
Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to
live, the way to behave, help us to want
to be more like you.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven...
For thine is the kingdom, the power and
the glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, in a world that we sometimes
struggle to understand, we pray for a
world that is in sorrow, want and fear; a
world facing a global pandemic, where
people across the world are sick and
frightened; where loved ones have died
and those grieving are isolated in sorrow
and sadness; a world where people are
screaming for justice and equality; a world
where people are facing job insecurity; a
world where many have no homes; a
world where people have risked their lives
to flee their homelands and seek safety in
other countries.

Loving God, in this troubled world
may all those in positions of leadership
be guided by a spirit of clarity of thought
and fairness to all.

In a world where we are your disciples
today may we find ways to stand up for
justice and peace; may all those troubled
and in sorrow feel your presence, your
peace, your compassion and your
strength.

We offer these prayers dear God in the
name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the
love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.
Amen.

Submitted by the Hope 4 Team

More ramblings of an old, vulnerable woman.

Well, hello again.

I felt I just had to put pen to paper after reading the 6th edition of Newstand Lite – haven't we got some clever people in our church? The poem Carla put together from our comments, when we were asked, "In the world I want to live in..."!! Well, I read it as a sermon – the content of which would be: "the ideal world" I also loved the reflectionary poem by Bill.

It's true, as Peter Moth states, we never referred to "Whit" as "Pentecost" – also we never processed at Whit – we did our Procession of Witness on Good Friday in North Shields – with our new clothes. At the end we were presented with a "blood" orange – Ugh!!! On returning home my mum would make our lunch – tinned salmon, white sauce, new potatoes and peas!!

Well, my routine has changed slightly in the last week although Michael and I still go for our afternoon walk and have our evening meal together (the standard of that meal varies – i.e. we had a cowboy tea the other night – bacon, eggs, baked beans and fried bread.) I'm still phoning my "flock" – I'm sure I can hear a groan when I say, "it's Valerie", "Oh not her again!" But I've started to go to the stables on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday as well as a Saturday – much to the disgust of Harvey (oh, by the way, that's the name of my horse). Several people have said, "Oh he'll be delighted to see you after 3 months!". No such luck – he's a grumpy old man with a very disdainful

expression – "Oh good grief! What's she doing here?!" I've had him for 12 years and, unlike all the other horses and their owners, he has never come to me! He is always at the far end of the field – when I go in it takes me 10 minutes to walk to him – he knows I'm there because he lifts his head – looks long and hard at me and then lowers his head and continues to graze. He's been a bit stiff – old age and arthritis in his shoulders so I thought, being a considerate owner, I would book him a massage. John Stubb, the horse masseur came – I led Harvey into a huge barn and John commenced to massage Harvey. Obviously he was stiff and sore (the horse) because he was dragging me around! Then he stood on my foot! So I "whispered" in his ear to remove his hoof from my foot! John then tied him up and finished the massage. Oh, I'm sure you're wondering what happened to my foot?? Well, the little toe is twice the size it should be and the side of the foot is a beautiful rainbow colour. I'm still speaking to Harvey and he still tolerates me – we've been out riding a few times – but I haven't built up enough courage to tell him he's having another massage next Monday!

Well, I think I have rabbited on enough – I feel sorry for Lucy who has to translate these ramblings – I'll buy you a coffee next time we meet – that'll give me plenty of time to save up!

To you all at St Andrew's – God bless you! Stay safe!

Valerie

There is evidence that trees **communicate** over great expanses, sending nourishment, messages and **support**. And they do all this grounded in place, **unable** to speak, reach out or move around.

We are like that right now, separate, unable to touch, yet deeply **connected** and sharing our love over these distances - **love** that shines and radiates out of the very root of our **being**.

Thank You to everyone at St. Andrew's who I have been in contact with over the recent weeks, especially those who have helped me after I broke my ankle, and those who have listened to my banter.

I would also like to say that I was sorry to hear about little Muffin and would like to tell the ladies of the coffee mornings to take care of themselves.

Best Wishes,
Harry Lowrie

News from the Ecumenical Social Committee

Although our annual Wine & Cheese Evening has had to be postponed, the Committee has recently been able to make donations to local charities thanks to the support we have received for previous events. I am pleased to say that we have donated £200 each to St Oswald's Hospice, the Great North Air Ambulance and the local Food Bank.

Ann Hammond

Here are some excruciating one-liners...

What time of day was Adam created?
Just a little before Eve.

Who was the fastest runner in the race?
Adam. He was first in the human race.

Why are atoms Catholic?
Because they all have mass.

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
Because Noah was always standing on the deck.

Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?
He only had two worms.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?
No — just an apple.

Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his Bible?
He thought he saw a job.

Does God love everyone?
Yes, but He prefers 'fruits of the spirit' to 'religious nuts'.

Crossword Answers

Across

1 Care, 3 Paradise, 8 Null, 9 Profaned, 11 Legalistic, 14 Closed, 15 Stores, 17 Missionary, 20 Covenant, 21 Thai, 22 Trade-off, 23 Eden

Down

1 Conflict, 2 Religion, 4 Arrest, 5 Affliction, 6 Iona, 7 Eddy, 10 Allegiance, 12 Preached, 13 Assyrian, 16 A son of, 18 Scot, 19 DVLA

Prayers and thoughts for this moment

In time of distress

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low that we may
rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can
separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Give us strength

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.

Be our hope

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through Him who suffered alone on the cross
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

