

NEWSTAND



November 2020

Volume 86 Issue 11

Are we in lockdown? Aren't we in lockdown? Which "Tier" are we in and can we go to another area that is in a different "Tier"? What if we get notification through the government's "Track and Trace" app that we need to isolate — does that apply to all of us, or just to the one that got the message? For that matter, where have they been that we haven't to come into contact with someone that tested positive?

All questions that are going through our heads this week, in the run up to what we hope will be a pleasant break away for a few days in Whitby. That's after we had to cancel our original holiday planned for April with my family coming too, so haven't been out of the area since February when we last managed to get down to the Midlands to visit them all. We just hope and pray that Northumberland doesn't enter Tier 3 curtailing this holiday too!

If we don't get away then it will still be time off work and school, and time to spend together (or as together as you get when children disappear off into their rooms for hours on end!). Time indeed to get started on the next DIY project (Oh Yes, that list is not getting any shorter it would appear) — redecorating Sophie's bedroom. That entails her moving into the spare room, which you may recall was full with the

clutter of the two big projects that took over the non-NHS hours of my life for the past few months.

That spare room, and indeed the landing, hall, lounge and especially the patio, are now sufficiently clear thanks to a 6 yard skip that only took a few hours to fill. There was even space in it to get rid of a few other remnants of previous projects that have been lurking in the garage and loft for many years. Things that I maybe kept for sentimental reasons (to not risk offending the giver), or because it was a nearly full pack of something that I might have found a use for but never did.

Doing all the clearing out got me thinking about my own life, faith and even the church — what other things have I, and indeed we as a church, been retaining for sentimental reasons, or for risk of offending someone if we get rid of it, or just because we might find a use for it one day. Perhaps it's time to really think about what we need to be a Church for the future and what we are just retaining for that day that never comes.

Stay safe everyone — God is with us!

Tim

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What is life if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare

Despite the fact that Corona virus is the biggest crisis for decades the World has had to deal with, we still can find positives.

I lead a very busy life and rarely take time to stand and stare. My Corona virus comfort has been the privilege of having the time to do that — stand and stare — at the sky, the Earth and the sea.

My daughter has had to shield but gave herself the freedom of walking on the beach at 5am, and many times I have joined her. We have seen seals, dolphins, many species of sea birds, fabulous sunrises, and enjoyed the blessed peace of a new morning. I have even been tempted to swim!

Standing in the garden I have watched the rested, rejuvenated Earth and sky give forth their beauty, both in the day and at night.

I have noticed more species of birds visiting the garden. I have enjoyed visits from field mice, a rabbit, hedgehogs and a baby fox, which was obliging enough to pose for a photograph.

On a clear evening I have enjoyed the beautiful night sky, seen shooting stars, bats and a few passing owls.

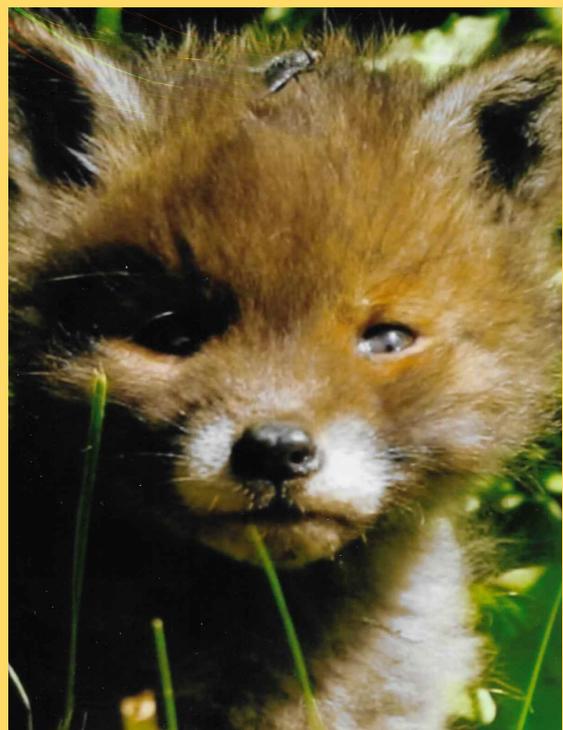
The most magnificent sight was staring at the most perfect, superb, exquisite double rainbow I have ever seen; it was

awe inspiring and I felt truly blessed. I immediately texted the half of my family who live in Whitley Bay and said, "Go into the garden and look up". The response was immediate, "Amazing", "Fantastic", and from Isaac, "Awesome, gobsmacking, fabulous"! I took time to observe people around, walking with dogs, etc., and all had stopped, even those in cars. They were using their phones to take photographs and without exception everyone was smiling, young and old.

The beauty of the World was in that rainbow and I am sure that everyone who saw it felt blessed.

Don't hurry, don't worry, and don't forget to stand and stare.

Rita Grimshaw



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. They can be emailed to standrewsnewstand@gmail.com or posted to Tim Cooke, 4, Kingfisher Way, Blyth, NE24 3QR

Minister's Musings

Remembrance and resilience

This is the month of Remembrance. Of late I have often thought of the people living during the First and Second World Wars. How in the beginning of the first everyone thought it would be over by Christmas but it wasn't. About the daily deprivations and dangers in this region and the rest of the country during the second. Some of this may be in your living memory or you may have heard it in family stories. The science of epigenetics tells us that our bodies carry traces of our ancestors' traumatising experiences even if we weren't alive then.

We survived it – as a nation and in our families. There was terrible loss of life, great suffering and sacrifice.

But survive we did, though of course not everyone. And not without wounds and scars. Jesus too bore the wounds of his crucifixion once he was resurrected (John 20:19-29). We carry our own difficult experiences in our bodies. If we are lucky, they become a source of strength.

Our survival is a testimony to human resilience. To our capacity to reach down into deep reserves and to adapt, and to help and encourage one another. I have begun to think of November now as a season of remembrance and resilience,

a season to reach deep for the resources we need to survive and adapt.

We do not survive and adapt alone. We need greater powers than we can muster ourselves. We need God. And we need one another. We need to care for ourselves and each other. To ask for help when we need it (oh that can be hard for church people). To pay attention to who is suffering most and to think wisely about how to respond.

And we need hope. In the Bible hope is in the vision of the new day that the prophets proclaimed and preached about: a day when violence shall be no more and all will have enough. We know we can't achieve this on our own. We humans are too

selfish and too limited. But it is God's dream. And God won't stop recruiting us into its service. The biblical witness is that God calls and equips mere mortals for God's great purposes of the flourishing of all of life and the redeeming of the times.

That is very good news. Paying attention and being willing, not letting go of the vision, we are equipped to survive and adapt...and to nudge that adaptation towards the new day.

In Christian love,
Carla

**We carry our own
difficult experiences
in our bodies.
If we are lucky,
they become a
source of strength.**

A prayer before Morning Worship

As <name> leads us in worship, give strength to their voice that we might hear them, clarity in our minds that we might understand them and love in our hearts that through their ministry we might grow in our faith in You, our risen saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

Words of Thanks

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers delivered to me on Sunday. I am so sorry I was out when Beryl called but they were a lovely surprise when I got home from my walk with Mum and Dad. It has been good getting back to church but so strange to be able to just give the thumbs up to friends and not being able to catch up with their news. Love to you all, keep well, keep safe.

Alison Ridley

Thank You!



I would like to thank everyone at St. Andrew's for the many cards, flowers and the support I have received following my Mother's death. My thanks go to Carla for the funeral service at Whitley Bay crematorium.

Rhoda Lee

Thank you everyone on the flower team. The flowers in memory of Sheila were beautiful. Sheila would have loved them as they were her favourite colours.

Love and Best Wishes.

Harry Lowrie

I'd like to thank everyone for my front door chats, phone calls and text messages; they have meant so much to me. Special thanks (and hoping I haven't missed anyone out) to Jenny Hooper, Carole Mallett, Ann Sinclair, Ray & Ann, Una (for the lovely masks), Sue & Kevin, Ian & Patsy (for removing Charlie's things when he moved out), Susan Clarke, Elizabeth Morley, Harry (for waving) and Carla.

God bless and see you all in the future.

Christine Clarkin

Many, many thanks for all the cards, good wishes and all the "waves" given to me to celebrate my 90th birthday. I had a great day.

Best Wishes to all.

Bob Corrigall

Wednesday Prayers at 9.30

Call to Prayer

Almighty God, gather us into Your presence. You are the great source of our being. Fill us with Your grace and peace, a flame of hope and new life. As we come in prayer, may we feel Your presence around us. AMEN

Prayer of Confession

Loving and Gracious God, as Your people we try to be a community open to others who don't yet know Your love and care. Yet we often build up walls, finding others and difference challenging.

We come to You in humility and ask Your forgiveness as we seek Your wisdom to know Your call, to step beyond our self-made barriers to be who You would want us to be and bring Your love and care to all people.

Merciful Father we offer these prayers in the name of Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

And let us say the Prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercessions at this time of Remembrance

Jesus said, 'Do this to remember me'.

And we remember.

We thank God for all that He has given and continues to give us.

We remember at this time all the men and women who fought in the great wars, we remember their sacrifice:

Silent personal prayer.

Lord, You teach ways of peace and non-violence yet the world would not seem ready for peace and justice.

We think of those around the world who fight in wars today:

Silent personal prayer.

In remembrance, we pray for those who have lost loved-ones in conflict, and those who face displacement through the damage of war:

Silent personal prayer.

We think of those on the other sides of conflict, and of the deep scars of war that mark God's world:

Silent personal prayer.

May our remembering be for new beginnings. We ask that we can be part of a world that seeks to heal and not stoke division, that seeks to build bridges of care and support, that seeks to lift up the poor and disadvantaged, that seeks to bring about your kingdom.

God of love, we pray for all people who feel lost and abandoned. May they know Your love through communities that care and reach out to help.

Be with us all, Lord God, that we might be Your eyes and ears, Your hands and feet, Your heart and soul, wherever we find need.

We offer these prayers in the name of Your Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

Blessing

May the God of love fill your heart with peace and be with you and those you love this day and always. AMEN

Submitted by the Hope 4 Team

What brings me Joy — Ode to May

Ann Stembridge looks back to warmer days.

What a glorious month was May. Lovely sunshine, gentle breezes and endless days. Thanks to the local, friendly plant centre the garden was full of flowers, overflowing their pots and tubs, preening themselves and showing off their wonderful colours. They loved their long, cool drink as dusk fell (lots of pots, lots of water).

The birds were ever busy, mobbing the feeders, dodging for place and flying back into the bushes to feed their ever hungry chicks. Then it's a quick dip in the bird bath, a fluff, a flutter and back on the merry-go-round. There were visits from goldfinches and a kestrel with its prey.

Added to this there were the joys of outdoor living. Enjoying meals under the parasol or a big straw hat; sipping coffee, relaxing and breathing in the tastes and smells of holiday without the woes of travel.

Visits from family and friends in the garden were a bonus, catching up in person on all the news.

Now that the days are closing in with uncertain times ahead, we can remember the lovely spring days we enjoyed to the full and look forward to the burnished colours of autumn now appearing on the trees and in the hedgerows. When looking at the wonderful pictures of the Fall in New England what comes to mind is "God's in his heaven, all's well with the world".

Ann Stembridge



The People's Kitchen — A Thank You

Dear Friends at St Andrew's Church,

On behalf of the trustees and all at the People's Kitchen I am writing to thank you for your generous donation of food (£165 in monetary donation was also made).

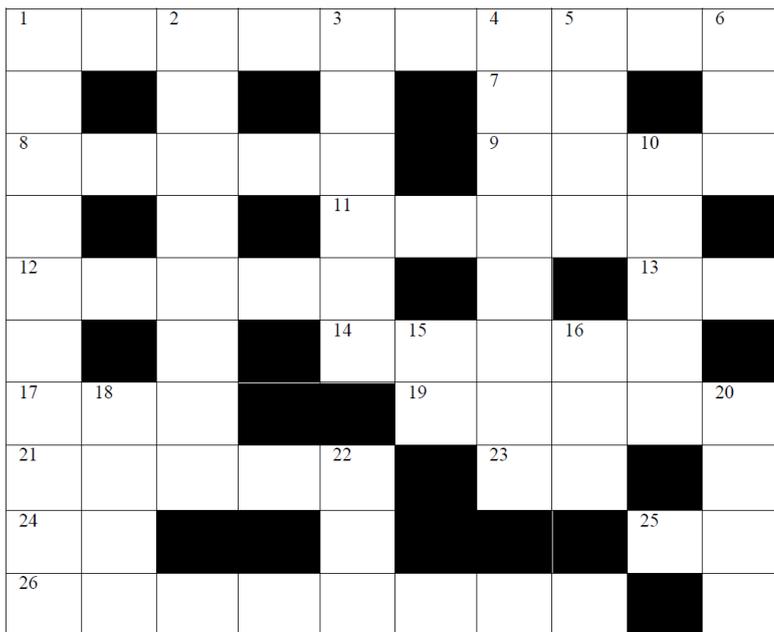
We have continued to feed and support the homeless and vulnerable people of Newcastle and the surrounding area throughout the past months. While the Kitchen was unable to serve hot meals we provided and delivered hundreds of food parcels. Now we are serving hot, home cooked meals in a takeaway system 7 days a week.

Thank you very much for your support.

With best wishes,
Pat MacDonald, Admin.



Puzzle Time



ACROSS

1. Came as tongues of fire (4,6)
7. Negative answer (2)
8. What 1 across gave to disciples (5)
9. Unaccompanied (4)
11. How Mary found Jesus' tomb (5)
12. So Mary ran to find ---- (5)
13. Not out (2)
14. First high priest (5)
17. Ego Eimi (Greek) (1,2)
19. Come together (5)
21. The last one is death (5)
23. Carry out (2)
24. Compass direction; abbrev. (2)
25. 16th letter of Greek alphabet (2)
26. Dig for this - in heaven? (7)

DOWN

1. He entered the Holy of Holies (4,6)
2. From birth to death (8)
3. Jael killed him by driving a tent peg through his temple (6)
4. The Holy Scriptures are this (of God) (8)
5. The Messiah is the ---- of Jesse (4)
6. Also (3)
10. Such lips should be put to silence (5)
15. Before noon (2)
16. Mountain form (3)
18. He was with Abraham when he met Melchizedek (Gen.14:24) (4)
20. We should overcome this with good (4)
22. In the affirmative (3)

God's covenant with Noah

Each word appears 3 times

cold day harvest

heat night

seedtime summer winter

Q R M Z W I N T E R
R S E E D T I M E A
D P E T O L I T H C
T T Y E N T N E T O
T H S I D I A K A L
K A G E W T W K E D
B H E I V J I X H L
T S A H N R J M C O
P T F R B M A X E C
X T S E V R A H J B
V S U M M E R Y I Y
Y R E M M U S U B A
A O D U C K D T I D
D C A S D L O C D F
G X Y T H G I N O V

In the beginning...	Trees	.....
On which day did	Light	.....
God create the	Fish	.....
following? <i>Extra credit</i>	Wild animals	.....
<i>for Genesis Ch.1 and</i>	Sky	.....
<i>Ch.2 versions!</i>	Birds	.....
Sea	Man	.....
Stars	Land	.....
Moon	Sun	.....
Livestock	Plants	.....

I think we may have been in lockdown a little longer than some

Anne Cockburn remembers back to when all this started.

In the first week of March we travelled to Lanzarote, our favourite hotel we have visited for the past 12 years where we meet with fellow holiday makers, now friends, from Holland, Germany, France, Belgium, and Saltburn by the Sea! We were aware of the Corona virus in various parts of the world and even Tenerife but there was no official guidance from the Foreign Office not to travel. As a precaution we purchased hand sanitizers, antiseptic wipes, rubber gloves but face masks proved to be unobtainable. However we managed to get ours from Screwfix, the assistant thought we were laying extra insulation in the loft!!

Our daughter, Gill, expressed a wish to spend some quality time with us and asked if we could spend our first week together. It was a memorable time, lots of talking, fun, laughter and we were sad to say goodbye as she boarded the coach for the Airport. On reflection, that was the last time we were able to hug each other.

The next day all changed!! Flights from the UK were being turned back mid-air, the beach was cordoned off, Police patrolled the promenade and issued fines to anyone who strayed, the hotel pools closed, sun beds were removed and all seating areas closed. The lounge was out of bounds and our much appreciated Animation team was dismissed. The next day we were confined to our room, leaving only to visit the restaurant and bar. It was amazing how long we could spend eating our meals and having the opportunity to talk to fellow guests. Provision of drinks was limited and on our last day only soft drinks and water were available -- never heard of before in an All – inclusive establishment!!

We were aware from TV news and contact with our daughter that there were shortages and queues at supermarkets back home. I was satisfied to remember that our freezers and cupboards were well stocked but I could not recall if we had enough toilet rolls. As a precaution I “removed” two rolls from the bathroom on our day of departure!!

On our return home our daughter had provided essential items for a few days and offered to shop regularly for us. We were humbled to receive telephone calls and notes through the door with offers of help from our neighbours but we wanted to remain as independent as possible. The Government deemed us as “vulnerable” and we followed their guidelines by staying indoors, having a short walk locally, and shopping once weekly. We undertook shopping for two couples who needed to shield or self isolate but our role was to obtain items not included in the deliveries from supermarkets or goods that were inappropriately substituted - i.e. a courgette for a cucumber!!

Yes, like everyone else we missed being with our family, enjoying outings, meals together and picnics. We missed the Church, socialising with fellow members, associated activities and seeing friends for coffee and lunches. We commenced a routine of regularly phoning friends we would normally have seen, preferring a more personal approach rather than text or E-mail. We undertook “round to it” tasks and the garden looks very well cared for!! One of the TV stations was repeating every episode of Downton Abbey which I recorded and watched subsequently, no, not only did I watch it, I “lived” the part of Mary Crawley (I could have played that role so well), but on reflection perhaps I would have been more suited to the kitchen with Mrs Patmore.

Anne Cockburn

Thanking God for the past as we look to the future

November is an emotional month. It begins with All Saints Day when we thank God for all the Saints who have gone before us – the Roman Catholic Church recognises more than 10,000 Christians who have been considered worthy of the Saint (with a capital 's') title after their death. The next day is All Souls, traditionally called the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed or the Day of the Dead. Many Christian denominations mark this with a day of prayer and remembrance for the souls of those who have died. For example, some churches invite bereaved families and friends of those whose funerals were held in the church during the previous year. During such a service candles are lit for every person as their names are read out. It can be a very moving, meaningful and emotional occasion for many people.

A few days later, on Armistice Day, the nation comes together to remember and give thanks to God for all those who sacrificed their lives while serving the country in the armed forces. Armistice Day was first observed at 11am on 11 November 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended the First World War a year earlier. This happened at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. The first official Armistice Day commemoration was held in the grounds of Buckingham Palace and this was followed by a peace parade for which the Cenotaph memorial was created in Whitehall and today is at the centre of the nation's commemorations.

During the Second World War, most of the Commonwealth of Nations agreed to change the name from Armistice to Remembrance and so include those who died during that war. In more recent times, servicemen and women killed and injured in other conflicts since the Second World

A prayer for all time?

Almighty God, in You alone we find safety and peace. We commend to Your gracious keeping all the men and women who serve in the Navy, the Army or the Air Force, who face danger and put their lives at risk so that others might live in safety. Defend them day by day by Your heavenly power; and help them to know that they can never pass beyond the reach of Your care. Keep alive in them and in us Your vision of that peace which alone we must seek and serve; Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

War have also been included, and services are held at parish churches and local memorials on the closest Sunday to Armistice Day.

The Royal British Legion, which cares for ex-servicemen and women injured while serving the country, and for the families of those who have died, plays a leading role in many of the services which often attract the largest congregations of the year. However, this year, for the first time since 1919, these services will probably not be taking place in the usual ways because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As November starts with a series of acts of remembrance to thank God for all those who have gone before us, it concludes with the excitement of Advent Sunday when Christians begin looking forward to celebrating the coming into the world of Christ.

Advent Sunday marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Christian Church, a year that we hope and pray will enable the world to come to terms with Covid-19 and enable us all not only to rebuild our local communities, but make our churches stronger and more relevant to the new world we will be serving.

What I've been doing: The Joy of Zooming with a grandson.

One Monday in March I worked at the University as usual, but by the next day we were all in lockdown and told we had to use a programme called Zoom for lessons with our students.

Usually I pick up my two grandsons after school, but that was abruptly no longer possible - I was only allowed phone calls. As their mum had to work from home, I devised a plan to 'see' my grandsons and help Isaac, who was 12 at the time and in year 8, with his English and French schoolwork via Zoom. He would speak to me via Zoom on the laptop and do his work on his school Chromebook. For English initially that meant 60 pages of texts and questions about Macbeth for class and homework per week. A daunting prospect, but having studied the play for O-Level, and having seen it numerous times, grandma got into the swing of playing the witches and the various other characters, much to the amusement of Isaac. We had a great time, getting to grips with new terms like pathetic fallacy, metaphors and allegories, not to mention the rivalry between Macbeth and Banquo. I was delighted when Isaac told me Macbeth was 'jealous of Banquo because the witches had promised his children would be kings'! Unfortunately, a lot of parents complained at the amount and difficulty of the work set, so we hastily had to change to 'Travel Writing' featuring quite tricky pieces from Charles Dickens and Robert Louis Stephenson, containing pathetic fallacy, metaphors and idioms yet again. The English work finished with a piece about Felix Baumgartner falling from space and Isaac had to imagine the man's feelings. I felt very proud of his



Isaac and Hudson doing science.
Photo used with permission of his mother.

achievements.

In French we covered the present, future, perfect and imperfect tenses, learned how to describe houses, people and what they were wearing. Sometimes the teacher suggested videos. I showed the videos through Zoom, but I could see that some were rather condescending to his age group. I always asked what he thought and, if the answer was clearly negative, we did not watch anymore and he just listened instead to how grandma would have taught that point. I was delighted with his progress.

Over the lockdown period I discovered some schools were sending work via google classroom, like Isaac's school, some were teaching via Zoom and children were enjoying this, whilst others still were doing very little to help the children. What a shame that there was so much diversity between schools. Children should find fun and enjoyment in at least some of their lessons!

Carole Moore

P.S. People with Asperger profiles, like Isaac, do have feelings, although they may have difficulty identifying and discussing feelings such as fear, anger and joy. He told me he enjoyed Zooming with grandma – but then he is biased!

Church Calendar for November

Sunday	1	Morning Worship: Mrs Angela Storer	11.00 am
Tuesday	3	Bible Study on the Psalms (via Zoom)	12 noon
Sunday	8	Morning Worship for Remembrance Sunday: Revd Dr Carla Grosch-Miller	<u>10.50 am</u>
Tuesday	10	Bible Study on the Psalms (via Zoom)	12 noon
Thursday	12	Elders' Meeting (via Zoom)	7.00 pm
Friday	13	Executive Team Meeting	10.00 am
Sunday	15	Morning Worship: Dr Ann Sinclair	11.00 am
Sunday	22	Morning Worship: Mrs Lucy Cooke	11.00 am
Sunday	29	Morning Worship: Rev Dr Carla Grosch-Miller	11.00 am

A short Act of Worship will be held in the church every Wednesday at 9.30 am, followed by an opportunity for private prayer between 10.00 and 11.00 am.

From our Book of Remembrance

Please remember in your prayers this month those who have gone before us.

Alexander McPhee	Jessie Winton	Jennifer Buckle
Elsie Marston Mallett	William Caldwell	Dorothy Joan Jackson
George Albert Winton	Kenneth Hooper	Dorothy June Paul
Ernest Frank Merrick	Thomas Pallister	Joan Clarkin
Albert Bright	William Johnstone Garven	Dorothy Lowdon
Captain Jack Young	Angela Greenwood Lopez	Mavis Doreen Brown



Church Register

DEATH

HIRST May,

on 4th October 2020, aged 95 years.

Service and committal at Whitley Bay

on 16th October conducted by Mrs Valerie Taylor.

Prayers and thoughts for this moment

Almighty God, in You alone we find safety and peace. We commend to Your gracious keeping all the men and women who are working at the front line of the Covid-19 pandemic, who face danger and put their lives at risk so that others might live in safety. Defend them day by day by Your heavenly power; and help them to know that they can never pass beyond the reach of Your care. Keep alive in them and in us Your vision of that peace which alone we must seek and serve; Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Endurance

Endurance of necessity
requires flexibility.

The tree that endures
will bend in the wind,
its leaves aflutter.

Even old trees have
enough give to survive.

A lifetime of being buffeted
builds resilience,
strengthens the core,
drives roots deep in the earth.

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