

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley
Church Magazine*



Church of England Member

August 2020

Price 50p



*Welcome to the Church of
St Edmund,
King & Martyr, Dudley*



Mass Times

Wednesday 12.15pm

Sundays 11.00am

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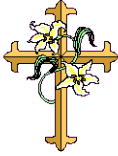
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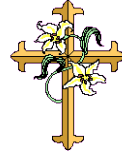
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IN REMEMBRANCE AUGUST



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Ada Estelle Hill
Lynda Reynolds
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- 28th John Causer Harcourt

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon
them.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

PARADISE.



Paradise – I can promise that article will not be one of pulpit thumping telling you where you may or not go after death.

I can feel the vibes already as the excitement mounts within our highly intellectual readers, but before I get to the lead word, come with me and join in the excitement our church life and lockdown.

In July we were allowed to open for private prayer, which we did but only after we followed the guidelines and sanitisation and seemingly miles of black and yellow hazard tape. If we had a church mouse and it stood still – he/she would have been pounced on by our team, duly sprayed but then let free.

Then came the government and church announcement that we could have services, but only with social distancing and no hymn singing. As law abiding citizens we complied and our first Mass since the 18th March was joyfully celebrated on the 19th July. Praise the Lord.

Looking down from my pew in the choir stalls, it was almost strange seeing a congregation all in face masks and other coverings. Not a single person looked like Dick Turpin. Masks - Safe for you and safe for me.

And talking of face masks, have you walked around Dudley (or your area) and noticed how many have the masks on but not covering the mouth and nose? What do they think a mask is for? To lift up a double chin? Wearing on public transport is good; and wearing in shops also good – sensibility takes precedence over stupidity and pig-headedness.

Now, back to *Paradise*. *Paradise* is a road in Dudley (true), not far from Blackacre Road.

“Take my hand, I’m a stranger in *Paradise*” from the musical ‘Kismet’ 1953 – most of us probably deny been born until well after then. (Big fibbers).

A black and white fictional television series in the early 60s told us about a Korean war veteran who stayed in the Pacific and played the ‘good guy’. The title ‘Adventures in *Paradise*’.

Strange how these things come back to us, and I think some of you may be singing “Hold my hand ..”

Right up to date we have ‘Death in *Paradise*’ about clever but sometimes slow detectives eventually solving cases in the Caribbean.

But the best of all for us Christians is the *Paradise* foretold when Jesus was dying on the cross and he said to the criminals suffering the same fate “Today you will be with me in *Paradise*.”

Now, for my personal take on *Paradise*: Two weeks ago I needed a new lawn mower, so I went to a large D.I.Y. store in Oldbury, which is about 5 miles from my house.

This was the furthest I had been/have been since lockdown. Oldbury: much maligned but once part of the industrial wealth making for this country. It is alleged that the young Princess Victoria pulled down the blinds on her (royal) carriage on the (royal) train when travelling through what is now known as The Black Country because she could not bear to look at the smoking chimneys and the grime of the people and the area. Vicky – you were a naughty girl!

But to me, driving there that day it represented in a strange way, almost as if I was entering *Paradise*.

JH.

Thought for the month

Pray inwardly, even if you do not enjoy it. It does good, though you feel nothing. Yes, even though you think you are doing nothing.

Julian of Norwich

The Dean of Worcester, Peter Atkinson has written this article for the August editions of parish magazines:



We've clapped the health workers and the carers. We've applauded Captain Tom. Medals are being struck and honours will be awarded for those who have given exceptional service to the community during the pandemic.

Absolutely right. There are many heroes to be honoured.

But I want to spare a clap for the unheroes too. The unheroes are those of us who haven't managed to do anything exceptional during the pandemic. We haven't risen to the occasion, or given conspicuous service to the community. Frankly we hated the lockdown. Perhaps we were ill, or shielding, or furloughed from work, or working from home, and we found it depressing. We were confused by the disruption of our ordinary routines. We grumbled a lot. We never quite discovered an answer to that terrifying future question, 'And what did you do during the pandemic, grandad?' We didn't even tidy the attic.

So why do we, the unheroes, deserve a small round of applause? Because we stuck it out. We hated every minute of it, but we kept to the rules, we stayed at home, and we didn't put other people's lives at risk. We were part of an enormous global effort to contain the spread of coronavirus and prevent it from killing yet more people. To that extent, we did our bit. We too saved lives. That's what we did during the pandemic.

Peter Atkinson, Dean of Worcester



J M W Turner's watercolour of Dudley, Worcestershire (1832)

The Black Country wins Unesco Geopark Status

It was announced on July 10th that the Black Country has become an official world famous Unesco Geopark. This confirms its place as having internationally important geology, cultural heritage and active partnerships committed to conserving, managing and promoting it.

This is the culmination of hard work and an unflagging belief by local officials, not least Graham Worton, the Borough Geologist, over the last ten years,

The atmospheric picture above by Turner, shows the great artist found the area worthy of his attention and depicts both St Edmund's and Top Church.

Jon mentions in his article that Queen Victoria did not like the view from the train window whilst passing through the Black Country; however, the poet W.H. Auden wrote the following lines in his poem "A letter to Lord Byron" (whether he meant it in a complimentary way is open to debate).

*Clearer than Scafell Pike my heart has stamped on
The view from Birmingham to Wolverhampton*

WHA.

Light relief from Jon



Before I retired, I worked in Wednesbury for 30 plus years, and enjoyed almost every minute of it. But recently I was looking through *The Parson's Quotation Book* compiled by the Rev. Graham Jeffery, and lo and behold found an item with a Wednesbury connection.

In April 1751 John Wesley wrote in his journal "I preached in the evening at Wednesbury, where, notwithstanding the rain, every man, woman and child stayed to the end." What it doesn't say is if the service was inside a building or outside on a dark wet night.

Thoughts –

(a) inside – perhaps they didn't want to go out into the rain.

(b) outside – such brave souls, but hope his sermon was only short.

Talking of sermons, from the same book quoting from the *Chichester Diocesan News* – The Revd Frederick Cavell, father of Edith, took literally from the sayings of St Paul, that "we should preach without ceasing, in season and out of season." Rev Cavell preached the same sermon to his country congregation every Sunday word for word, for 48 years.

Thought – the same sermon for 48 years! Now that's consistency.

I love some of the stickers on the windows and bumpers of vehicles, and my favourite seen by me locally on the rear bumper of a 4 x 4 is "If you can read this sticker then I have lost my caravan". Wonderful.

Love this story (can't guarantee it is true): In a country parish the preacher stopped his sermon because he spotted a man sleeping. "Madam" he said to the man's wife "your husband is sleeping, please wake him up." To which the good lady replied "You sent him to sleep, you wake him."

1st August - Lammas Day - Celebrates the wheat harvest.

Now a Christian festival it is also a pagan festival of Celtic origin

The name has evolved from the Anglo-Saxon hlaf-mas meaning loaf mass.

WE are still no nearer to getting together for a meeting, but keep in contact by telephone, and for those who can get out and about, in church for the resumed regular services.

The Diocesan President sends out a monthly newsletter and we have lately received a meditation for the current situation based on the Revelations of Divine Love from Mother Julian of Norwich.

Mother Julian said it was revealed to her by Jesus that **“You will not be overcome”**. The words were said insistently and emphatically to give confidence and strength for every trouble that may come. He did *not* say “You will not have a rough time; you will not be burdened; you will not have to face difficulties” he said **“You will not be overcome”**. Bring all your fears, worries, weariness, sadness and uncertainties into the light of Christ. Let that light penetrate the darkness and spread outward giving you hope, courage and trust in God.

“Nothing can overcome you and all will be well.”

Who was Julian of Norwich?



Julian, 1343 - c1416, was an anchorite, or hermit, who lived in a cell attached to St Julian’s church in Norwich. This may be where she is named from, as little is known about her early life.

At the age of thirty she was seriously ill and considered to be close to death; it was at this time she received the revelations. Her book, “The Revelations of Divine Love” is thought to be the earliest by a woman, in the world.

She lived at the time of the Black Death, and the Peasants’

Revolt.

The church of St Julian in Norwich..

The statue of Julian, above, is in Norwich cathedral.



What did you do in the great lockdown?



I wish I could say I had painted the entire house, written a novel, and learned to play the ukulele. Unfortunately, I have not been nearly as productive as Steve Martin, our organist. We had a strange lead up to it, having been in France for three weeks, sold our house (when we were not at all certain that the deal would go through), organised another removal and drove back via London. A week of normality, then into lockdown. In the meantime, all our immediate family members, having met in London, were ill. I have since had a Covid immunity test at Russells Hall, and I have apparently been exposed to it, and therefore have antibodies, and some immunity.

Like so many other people, I spent the first few weeks frantically trying to keep in touch with everyone by various means - telephone calls, emails, WhatsApp, FaceTime and even Snail Mail (good old-fashioned letter-writing). It was good to feel in contact with friends and family in such strange times. Several very old friends got in touch with me, so perhaps we will stay in closer contact now.

The early weeks seem to have been pre-occupied with thinking about where we were going to find certain items of food - chiefly soya milk (I don't like cows' milk) and bread flour (my husband bakes our bread). Amazingly, I had unwittingly bought a huge bargain pack of toilet rolls before we left for France, but the shelves in my local supermarket were cleared of all varieties of milk and all flour. I got into the habit of popping in on my early morning walk to get anything useful which was available.

Again, like many others, I did more exercise than usual - being told you have to stay in makes you more determined to use your permitted short time to the full. I quickly abandoned the disused railway walk and the canal towpath, since both were clogged with joggers and dog walkers, and my excursions got earlier and earlier. I became very bored with all the streets around us, and had fantasies of moving to a remote area where one could walk up into the hills from one's own front door. However, I developed a routine of walking down the main Bridgnorth road - strangely deserted at first - on to the canal for a short time, then back through fields and woods. The absolutely beautiful spring weather helped to lift the spirits a great deal.

I also did a few online ballet classes for older people (the Silver Swans). I blame the Duchess of Cornwall, who recommended these, for my twisted ankle and damaged knee, which also put paid to very long walks.

Then I did an online course on Robert Burns. This was run by an organisation called Future Learn, which makes short academic courses available for free. These are all provided by reputable universities, and I suppose the aim is to tempt you into the Open University, which is a sponsor. Mine was an excellent course, run by the University of Glasgow. Our choirmaster at Dudley Choral Society also started doing Zoom meetings for anyone who wanted to practice the repertoire - Handel and Bruckner - for our cancelled spring concert, together with a bit of Gilbert and Sullivan thrown in for fun, so Monday evenings were choir night, as usual.

Then I started doing some work for the website of Dudley Museums, writing and recording talks about some of the paintings in our collection, with particular reference to the 950th anniversary of Dudley Castle.

With some relaxation of the rules we were able to meet friends in gardens when the weather was good, so that was a boost to the morale.

It has been difficult to concentrate on heavy reading, so I have returned to old favourites, poetry, and play-scripts.

Despite Lent and Easter occurring during peak lockdown, I found it beneficial to spend more time reading passages from the Bible, and following some of the services on radio, television, and computer. I missed having an actual Easter celebration, but listened to the Archbishop of Canterbury and “kept the feast”, complete with flowers, decorations and of course, Easter Eggs. The enforced Quiet Time has enabled us to count our blessings - a roof over our heads, enough food in the house, and a small garden.

Pray for those who are not so fortunate, and who may have lost friends and relatives to this dreadful virus, and give thanks for all the many key-workers who have enabled us to get by, and give thanks that we can again participate in our church life at St. Edmund’s.

So even if we think we have not done very much in the lockdown, it has perhaps given us pause for thought; a moment out of time for reflection; “something understood”. JF.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE PANDEMIC, DADDY?

When the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown hit mid-March I didn't give any thought about what to do. Being naturally lazy and quite content to sit at home, reading a book or watching daytime television, I settled down comfortably to weather the storm.

It was not until my son sent me an invitation from and a link to, a group called Zooniverse.

This I found online at <https://www.zooniverse.org>

This is a people-powered research facility looking at all manner of things and using the power of the web to work through data to enable a huge mass of information to be itemised, processed and collated by a large number of people online into a useful and usable form.

The initial project I joined was called "Rainfall Rescue". This involved looking at written records of rainfall from throughout the British Isles over the period from 1677 to 1960. The earlier records I never saw but by the mid-1800s formalised recording sheets had been produced. I imagine the earlier sheets were crude affairs but those produced later and up to the 1960s were elegant and easily completed, if time consuming.

Measurements were taken monthly by a designated observer. During the 1800s they were often Lords and Ladies of the manor and generally people of some local importance. The sheets gave a fascinating insight into the "pastimes" of these folk or those they employed to complete them. They were obviously of the educated classes capable of reading, writing and arithmetic. The measurements taken were meticulously and, in the main, elegantly recorded giving venue, recorder, month and year. Each sheet covered a period of 10 years. The diameter of the collecting vessel, its height above the ground and the altitude at which the measurements were taken were also recorded. It was fascinating noting the "Annual Rainfall" at the various sites one was asked to note. The collator was given a year on which to work in a particular location. I liked to check the accuracy of the arithmetic and always found it spot-on. Once a year was recorded on a particular site, the sheet was changed to a different site and another year was selected for recording.

We received an online thank you with the following details attached.

"65,000 pages, 16,000 volunteers, 5.25 million observations rescued in less than 3 weeks – remarkable"

RAINFALL AT *Guernsey Ville Carey*

Loc. _____ Loc. _____ County of *Guernsey*
 Rain Gauge, No. _____ Member *The Meteor. Society*

Year	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	Blank
January	4.18	1.5	3.22	3.49	2.94	4.92	2.55	1.65	1.17		
February	3.62	3.86	2.5	3.89	2.49	4.38	1.58	.61	2.04	2.58	
March	1.58	2.20	1.84	2.29	2.26	1.52	2.52	.89	5.51	1.84	
April	2.32	4.98	3.44	1.12	2.12	1.81	2.68	1.59	1.79	1.54	
May	2.11	2.25	2.5	2.56	.98	1.93	3.52	1.48	1.26	2.27	
June	1.92	2.55	2.38	2.33	.90	.79	.87	2.49	1.78		
July	2.25	1.71	2.24	2.49	2.85	2.3	3.44	.75	2.65	2.12	
August	3.54	4.02	2.65	1.55	1.07	1.52	1.78	2.14	1.72	2.48	
September	3.74	1.78	3.85	5.07	3.82	4.41	3.21	2.56	1.88	.79	
October	2.83	2.89	2.5	5.07	1.06	5.58	4.57	2.43	2.49	7.83	
November	4.38	4.75	3.5	5.89	1.76	3.82	4.07	7.12	5.72	1.46	
December	4.06	3.64	5.2	1.12	6.25	1.88	5.52	3.10	1.95	2.63	
Total	38.27	47.34	36.36	31.7	32.2	44.23	28.89	28.97	18.63		

TASK **TUTORIAL**

Please enter the rainfall amounts for 1883. Leave the box blank if there is no data for that month.

January 1883

February 1883

March 1883

April 1883

May 1883

June 1883

July 1883

August 1883

September 1883

October 1883

November 1883

December 1883

Total for 1883

An example of the "Rainfall Sheets" from which the collating was effected. This one relates to a site on Guernsey and was originally recorded by members of the Meteorological Society during the period 1880 - 1889

Our Zooniverse recording "task" is the right-hand column. The one shown relates to 1883.

Following the Rainfall study, I took on the recording the US Servicemen who died during the First World War from the cards reporting their deaths, family and burial arrangements. The surprising thing I noticed in this study were the number of fatalities not strictly related to "Killed in Action" [KIA]. Many died from diseases. This study is still on-going.

The most poignant thing about this study is the fact that it puts one into contact with those who died 100 years ago. As each man is recorded it forms a "bridge" between him and the recorder. Each one was a son, father, brother. Each time I recorded the name, it was like a prayer for that deceased person. They were remembered.

Patrick McGraghan

THE LOCK-DOWN QUIZ

1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?
2. There is an assistant at the butcher shop who is five feet ten inches tall and wears size 13 shoes. What does he weigh?
3. Before Mt Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
5. What word in the English language is always spelled incorrectly?
6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in summer. How is this possible?
7. What was the President of the USA's name in 1975?
8. If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?
9. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?
10. If a farmer has 5 haystacks on one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in a third field?

Answers to this quiz will be published in next months magazine.

A Statement on the Situation in the Holy land from the Bishop of Worcester Dr John Inge and the Archbishop of Birmingham Bernard Longley.

For several weeks, reports have been in circulation suggesting that the Israeli Government plans to annexe parts of the West Bank. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster recently issued a statement expressing the churches' strong opposition to these plans for annexation, which local Christian leaders have warned would "bring about the loss of any remaining hope for the success of the peace process."

The Right Rev Declan Lang (Catholic Bishop of Clifton and Chair of the Holy Land Coordination group) and the Right Revd Christopher Chessun (Bishop of Southwark and Anglican representative on the Holy Land Coordination group) have now called on the UK government and parliamentarians to help prevent annexation, which could begin on 1 July. In a joint statement they have said: "From our dialogue with communities in the Holy Land, we know first-hand that the situation is rapidly deteriorating. Annexation would only bring more conflict, suffering and division. The UK Government has a duty to act and to do everything possible to dissuade the Government of Israel from annexing the West Bank in violation of international law. This week we have made representations to the government and senior parliamentarians about the situation. Alongside other churches and faith groups we will continue to work on this fundamental question of justice and peace."

We express our strong support for this call for action by the British Government and parliamentarians. Having led joint Roman Catholic/Anglican pilgrimages to the Holy Land, we share a common commitment to the Christian communities there and to their flourishing. We are equally united in our longing for all the communities in the Holy Land – and indeed in the whole of the Middle East – to live in peace and security, with justice for all.

Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham and Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester

Holy Days in AUGUST

6th	Transfiguration of our Lord
8th	St Dominic
10th	St Lawrence
11th	St Clare of Assisi
15th	The Assumption
20th	St Bernard
24th	St Bartholomew
31st	St Aiden Bishop of Lindisfarne



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<http://cofedudley.weebly.com/>

Our Advertisers

This magazine still displays the adverts from those people who have paid in advance for twelve months publicity.

Clearly, some of them will not be operational at the moment. Please remember them when, we hope, they are up and running again

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