



# *The Magazine*

April  
2021

**Wallasey Village Church**

The United Reformed Church in Wallasey Village







## Letter from Jeff

### Lockdown misery and Easter Hope

This will be our second Easter in lockdown.

Whilst a few might be able to get to church for our 'one off' Easter Day service, most will experience worship as we have for the last year, in our homes.

For many, the experience of the last 12 months have been rather like an extended Good Friday. People have suffered much physically, emotionally and spiritually because of the effects of Covid-19 and the future seems uncertain. But those who put their trust in Jesus are Easter People – we know that life brings its sufferings – and boy has this pandemic done that – and we know that we will all experience death – and boy has this pandemic made that all the more difficult to bear. But we are an Easter People and our hope lies in a Saviour who experienced suffering and death but endured; and therein lies our hope and our future.

As the vaccine roll out expands and gathers effectiveness, there is hope of life returning to 'normal', and plans are underway to prepare for opening church so that we can be together, fellowshiping in person.

Pastor S. M. Lockbridge summed our hope up in this way:

It's Friday; Jesus is praying, Peter's a sleeping, Judas is betraying But Sunday's comin'

It's Friday; Pilate's struggling, The council is conspiring, The crowd is vilifying, They don't even know That Sunday's comin'

Cover picture  
Telegraph Lane



It's Friday The disciples are running like sheep without a shepherd. Mary's crying, Peter is denying But they don't know That Sunday's a comin'

It's Friday; The Romans beat my Jesus, They robe him in scarlet, They crown him with thorns, But they don't know

That Sunday's comin'

It's Friday; See Jesus walking to Calvary, His blood dripping, His body stumbling, And his spirit's burdened But you see, it's only Friday; Sunday's comin'

It's Friday; The world's winning, People are sinning, And evil's grinning.

It's Friday; The soldiers nail my Savior's hands to the cross, They nail my Savior's feet to the cross, And then they raise him up next to criminals.

It's Friday; But let me tell you something, Sunday's comin'

It's Friday; The disciples are questioning what has happened to their King, And the Pharisees are celebrating that their scheming has been achieved, But they don't know It's only Friday; Sunday's comin'

It's Friday; He's hanging on the cross feeling forsaken by his Father, Left alone and dying, Can nobody save him? Ooooh It's Friday But Sunday's comin'

It's Friday; The earth trembles, The sky grows dark, My King yields his spirit

It's Friday; Hope is lost, Death has won, Sin has conquered, and Satan's just a laughin'

It's Friday; Jesus is buried, A soldier stands guard, And a rock is rolled into place, But it's Friday; It is only Friday.

Sunday is a comin'!

Alleluia, Happy Easter!

Jeff.



## A Prayer for our Church



I'm am very grateful to Edna Rowan, Wallasey Village who sent this poem to me recently suggesting this be our prayer.

'O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife.

Make it's threshold smooth enough to shut out all that might be a stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet,

but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter's power.

God make the door of this house the gateway to Thine eternal kingdom.'

*Thomas Ken 1637-1711(on St Stephen's , Wallbrook, London.)*

This is a great prayer to pray over our church as we look to reopening our buildings and returning to fellowship, but it's also a great prayer to pray over our own homes, that they too will be places of rest, hospitality and acceptance.

May God give us light to guide us; courage to support us, and love to unite us now and evermore.

Amen

Let us also pray that we, ourselves do not obstruct the way. Amen

*Ed.*

*Thanks to Edna and Jeff for this piece.*

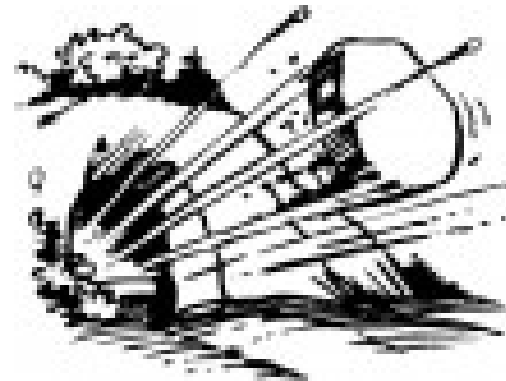


## Easter Thoughts

Someone said to Joseph of Arimathea, "That was such a beautiful, costly, hand-hewn tomb. Why did you give it to someone else to be interred in?" "Oh, it's ok" said Joseph, "he only needed it for the weekend."

"Because of Easter, our coffins are nothing but canoes bearing us across the Jordan River to fairer worlds on High." (Herman Melville, Moby Dick)

German theologian Jurgen Moltmann expresses in a single sentence the great span from Good Friday to Easter Day: "God weeps with us so that we may someday laugh with Him"



*Thankyou, Jeff*



## Wallasey Village URC -

### Finance report 2020

#### Where we are now

First of all, can I thank our fellowship for maintaining their giving and responding to our requests for funding during 2020. You will see from the figures that we have met our Free Will offering target and reduced our expenditure. A couple of comments to note – 1) for the first couple of months we were fully functioning with full energy costs and bookings payments, and 2) for most of the year we have benefited from little or no energy costs. The Village Rooms bank account is maintaining its monthly transfer in support of our costs. Thank you also to those who are now giving via their bank accounts. This has largely solved the management of our offerings, and standing orders are particularly helpful.

#### Our giving

We have not been able to support charities in the usual ways in 2020 for various reasons. Individuals maintained support of charities and David set up the Christian Aid collection in May which raised £1,043.49 plus £630.00 in Gift Aid. Before Christmas the front room was set up safely to receive donations from members and visitors for Foodbank and the Charles Thompson Mission. Support of Operation Christmas Child was maintained (thank you Heather for the 90 boxes!) and we shared with Prenton the £220 postage costs.



#### Our spending

For the past few years up to 2020, we have had fairly healthy bank accounts and fund reserves, including grants and donations. This enabled us to continue with our Phase 2c project. Despite lockdown we were able to finish work on the rear entrance and cellar, and builders have now started work on a new kitchen and the improvement of toilet facilities. We will be using grants which we already have, or which are committed, together with the very welcome donations from members and friends towards the work.

Mersey Synod	£30,000
Congregational and General Charitable Trust	£15,000
Donations	£35,000
All Churches Trust	£3,600
Nathaniel Reyner Trust	£2,425
Local fundraising	£2,623
Donations	£20,000
WVURC contribution	£30,000
<b>Total available</b>	<b>£138,648</b>
<b>Cost of Phase 2c 2021</b>	<b>£138,025</b>

(continued on next page)

*Elders thank Ann for all of her hard work as Treasurer.*

*Thanks also to Ian Jess for his work as auditor.*





## Wallasey Village URC -

### Finance report 2020 (continued)

You won't be surprised that the Buildings Fund remains open! There is also need for care in the way we deploy our resources in this new and uncertain year. For example electricity costs soar if not switched off when it should be.

This has been all about money. Yes, this is necessary to manage income and expenditure so that we can carry out work for the glory of our God. We pray and have faith that He will guide us to fulfil His plan for the Church building and more importantly for how we use it for His purposes.

God bless, and thanks and love to you all.

*Ann Barr*



### Dolls Needed Please!

Eileen Levell from Wallasey Village is looking for Barbie dolls or similar to dress for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

If you have any Barbie or Ken style dolls that your children or grandchildren no longer play with, please let me or Eileen have them. Eileen will have great fun, washing them, doing their hair and knitting clothes to dress them, ready to be played with again.

When charity shops are open again - if you see any Barbie style dolls please let me have them too!

Thank you, Heather.



## April Dates for your

Thurs			Maundy Thursday
1st			
Fri			Good Friday
2nd			
Sun	10:15am	Church	Easter Sunday
4th			(see page 11)

## Advance Notices

10th—16th	Christian Aid Week
13th May	Ascension Day
23rd May	Pentecost (Whit Sunday))

*All items for inclusion in the May Magazine must be in the hands of the editors no later than Sunday 18th April*

[GoronwyHumphreys@virginmedia.com](mailto:GoronwyHumphreys@virginmedia.com)

*Handwritten (print) or typed contributions may be given to the editors or sent to:*

*14 Prospect Vale, Wallasey CH45 6TQ*

*tel 0151 513 3678*



Because of ongoing restrictions, we are unable to meet for our Sunday worship and our usual weekly activities. However, we are able to hold an Easter Sunday Service at 10:15am (see opposite) for limited numbers.

As on previous Sundays, we have produced some online worship, we do hope you can join in with us – The services are on the church website:

<https://wallaseyvilleurc.org.uk>

Fellowship and community are important to us and this is one way we can keep together even in isolation. Our prayer for you and those you love is that you keep safe and well and that God's blessing will rest upon you.

Jeff would like more hymns to be sent to him, each with a short reason why it is a favourite.

For news of any future events, refer to the website above



**There will be a service  
in our church**

on

**Easter Sunday**

at

**10.15 - 11.00am**

Booking by 27<sup>th</sup> March is ESSENTIAL

even if you have already said you will

attend,

you **MUST** still contact

Chris Doran

0774 316 1971 or

**c.doran20@ntlworld.com**

**Full COVID safety measures will be  
in place**

- **Masks are required**
- Socially distanced seating
- There will be no heating and doors/windows must be open - wear something warm.
- Reminders not to sing will be given during the service
- Music will be by video
- speak to Chris if you are able to help manage the service.

*The usual on-line service will take place for those unable to attend.*





## Lockdown Log

It's 12 months since Lockdown started, we expected initially it would be for 3 months or thereabouts. "That won't be too bad" I thought, "I can get some jobs done round the house and such."

Well, I did lots of clearing and sorting and made piles of things in my dining room, these to go to the charity shops; these to return to 'rightful owners'; these to go to church; these to go to the tip!

It was quite therapeutic, I rather enjoyed not being diary driven, I liked having the opportunity to do things at my pace without interruption ... at first anyway! The tips and charity shops were closed, and we couldn't go and see the 'rightful owners' so the piles of 'stuff' stayed in the dining room. When things started to open up again we didn't get the things away, Jeff was busy, I don't drive, queues were huge at the tip, charity stops would only take limited quantities, and we decided to wait until things eased off further so we did nothing with it and it stayed there gathering dust!

I missed my window of opportunity, we were locked down again, with the fully stacked dining room still full to the brim!

So, a year on, I still have most of the stuff. The house is not as tidy as it was at the beginning of lockdown, it seems to take a long time to anything, and motivation can take some effort to get going! I think my 'get up and go' has 'got up and went'! Maybe I've become 'Lockdown lazy'!



With hope of spring, the hope of Easter, and the hope of an end to many of the restrictions perhaps now is the right time to get ready to take hold of that hope and use it to motivate myself, physically and spiritually, polish up my home and my life ready for the hope that comes with the sun and the Son!

Perhaps you'll join me with a spring clean of your faith! (and your home if you like!)

*Much love, Heather x*

*Thanks, Heather  
Always enjoy  
reading this. Ed*

## Easter thoughts

Because of Good Friday you can look back and not be afraid.

Because of Easter you can look ahead and not be afraid.

Because of Ascension Day you can look up and not be afraid.

Because of Pentecost you can look in and not be afraid.



If the Christ who died had stopped at the cross, His work had been incomplete.

If the Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb, He had only known defeat,

But the way of the cross never stops at the cross and the way of the tomb leads on

To victorious grace in the heavenly place where the risen Lord has gone. (Annie Johnson Flint)



Listen to a daily reading and reflection  
Sunday 28 March to Sunday 4 April

**2021  
HOLY WEEK**  
MINI PODCAST  
SERIES



<http://bit.ly/holy-week-2021>



## Holy Week resource for 11-14 year olds

A series of 8 daily recordings to listen and engage with throughout Holy Week 2021. Aimed at 11 to 14 year olds, each recording includes a Bible reading, reflection, prayer, and a response activity.

Podcasts will be released daily from Palm Sunday (28 March) until Easter Sunday (4 April).

Please share the link and poster via email or on social media – encourage any young people you know to listen either alone, with family or with a group of friends.

**The recordings can be accessed via the QR code on the poster (left). If you would like any more information, please get in touch with Steven Mitchell**

<[cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk](mailto:cydo@urcmerseysynod.org.uk)> and I'll e-mail it to you.

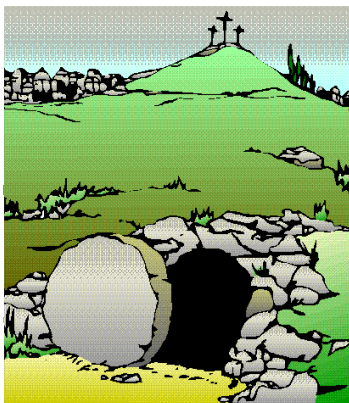




## People News

- Please keep those who are still recovering from Covid in your prayers, particularly Ron and Mavis Taylor.
- Sue Norris's sister, Jean, is currently undergoing treatment for her cancer. She has had the first operation and will be having another shortly. Please keep Sue and Jean in your prayers.
- Jim Varty is currently receiving treatment in hospital. Remember him in your prayers.

If anyone is in need of prayer, contact Hazel Welsh 07821171534



## Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week runs from 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May, but as we can't collect 'Door to Door' or have Christian Aid lunches and coffee mornings as we've done in previous years other avenues for raising are needed.

So, I have decided that since I can't do what I would usually do for Christian Aid I will do something different.

I am hoping to walk from Leasowe Lighthouse to Fort Perch Rock (café and toilets this end). The walk is 4.5 miles, so quite a stretch for me, but thankfully it's fairly flat; still, I don't promise record breaking speed! I would be grateful if you would consider sponsoring me to do this to raise money for Christian Aid.

I will be walking on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 starting at 10am. (Weather permitting)

Jeff will be walking with me and if you would like to join us for some or all of the way we'd be delighted to see you, socially distanced, of course! (Covid regulations will allow groups of 6 to meet outdoors).

Please consider any contribution you wish to make prayerfully, and I'll let you know how you can sponsor me in May's magazine.

Yours, (in training,) Heather.





Christian Aid Week began in 1957, with the aim to encourage public awareness, this led to the Charity adopting the name Christian Aid in 1964. Its aim in the 1960s was to make people aware of the threat of hunger and the possibility of famine.

This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. It recognises that droughts have become more intense and more common because of the changing climate. The impact on the world population is great, as it means that millions of people around the world struggle to get the food and water that they need.

Because of the continuing Coronavirus pandemic Christian Aid Week this year will be a virtual affair. Christian Aid is asking volunteers to host virtual fundraising events such as online bingo, or an online quiz that they are calling Quiztian Aid.

For details see

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>



## From the editors

Early Christian wanted to get away from celebrating New Years Day on 1st January because of its association with paganism. So they started celebrating it on the feast of the Conception—25th March. It was celebrated for many years on this day, but ordinary folk often persisted in celebrating it on 1st January. When Pope Gregory reformed the calendar in 1588, he moved New Year's Day to January 1st. Protestant countries were slow to follow this reformation. Scotland did so on 1st January 1600 but England and Wales reformed in September 1752, (so for 152 years the date in Scotland was different from the date in England and Wales) bringing England and Wales back into line with Scotland. In order to keep taxes and rents in line (ie to avoid paying a years tax on a year only 353 days long) the day when tax was due was moved from 25th March to 6th April, where it remains to this day.



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