



St. Andrew's Psalter Lane Church
An Anglican Methodist Partnership

NEXUS

Christ in Nether Edge & Us



June - July 2020

www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk

Correspondence should be addressed to the Church Office, Shirley House, 31 Psalter Lane, Sheffield S11 8YL

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(A District Group which meets at Ringinglow)

Welcome

Welcome to this unusual edition of Nexus which is a little longer than usual and packed with all sorts of items to keep you amused/interested/thoughtful for a short while during these strange times. Our cover picture is Cistus Ladanifer “Gum Rockrose” from Bill Atherton’s garden. We have poetry, from the students of the amazing Kate Clanchy (whose book ***Some kids I taught and what they taught me***, is one of seven books shortlisted for the George

Orwell prize). We have two contributions to our new series Life in Books, shamelessly adapted from the Guardian series. We have information about local community issues and services. Alongside some reflections on what some of us have been doing while locked down, we have a blog from a Sheffield foster carer about helping a little boy to learn to walk. And of course we have our regular contributions. In case you are one of those who has not yet succumbed to the bread-making craze – focaccia is supposedly the biggest hit – you will find an easy recipe here along with how to buy the necessary flour from St Mary’s. But the big, as yet unanswered question of our time is simply ‘Where do we go from here?’ The back page has a piece by Arundhati Roy who poses some critical questions for all of us. Threaded throughout this edition of Nexus are various articles that help us to think about the future – of funding charities at home and abroad and the very life blood of our church. Locked down or not, we will be here again for our late summer edition and welcome your contributions which should be sent to me, anne.hollows@gmail.com by 20th July.

Letter from Gareth

Dear friends,

We had little idea when the last edition of Nexus was in its early stages of preparation, just how much our lives were going to change in the forthcoming months. I found myself rewriting my Nexus letter at the last minute, as we realized we were entering a period of lockdown, but even then we were just thinking of the prospect before us, rather than finding ourselves immersed in the dramatically new experience.

There is so much that will be going through our minds at the moment. The scale of the loss of life, the sorrow of the bereaved and the suffering of those who are ill; the remarkable work of NHS and care workers; our dependence on the many people who have kept our daily lives functioning; experiences of loneliness and anxiety caused by protracted isolation; questions about how the crisis might have been handled differently; the many forms of hardship that so

many people are faced with, either currently or in prospect; the deep inequalities in our society brought into sharp relief by this situation; our consciousness of the profound current or potential challenges faced around the world; the many examples of wonderful kindness we have seen, as well as the inevitable human selfishness.

Every faith community has been deeply affected by these events. Not being able to use places of worship or to gather together to celebrate major festivals has been an experience common to all of us.

But people of faith have also responded in positive and creative ways, finding ways of serving their local communities and continuing to provide worship and spiritual nourishment using the available technology. I have derived real benefit from talks and other resources made available by a number of local faith groups.

Here at SAPLC, we have sought to respond to these unprecedented circumstances in a range of ways. There has been much mutual support and continuing pastoral care. We have sought to communicate regularly and share information. The regular work of the church, in areas such as property and finance, has continued to be well looked after, often behind the scenes. And we have found new ways of providing worship and prayer through the remarkable range of gifts - worship-leading, musical and technical - that we have within our congregation. I hope that, whether or not you have email and internet access, you have felt connected to the rest of the SAPLC family at this time; if for any reason this hasn't been the case, please let me know, as we must try and make sure that everyone can feel part of the church fellowship.

Behind all of this, there is the big question of what our faith says to us amid all that's happening. There's a huge amount that could be said, but I'd like to focus on three things. Firstly, our faith speaks of the compassionate presence of God within the experience of human suffering, something we explored in the time leading up to Easter and especially during Holy Week. Secondly, our faith holds before us a vision of what society and the world might be like once – eventually – the most extreme aspects of the current crisis have passed. How would we wish the world to change, in terms of human solidarity, the structures of society, and care for the planet? But thirdly, our faith

reminds us that there is a dimension of life beyond our immediate experience, the dimension of the timeless, the eternal, the infinite. To remember this isn't to indulge in some kind of escapism; after all, my first two points emphasize the presence of God within the stark realities of the world as it is. But at a time when all our attention seems to be on the pandemic and its effects, we need to keep sight of the unchanging One who is both within and beyond our current reality. As the Letter to the Hebrews puts it, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Peace and love,
Gareth



CONTEMPLATION

IT CAME OUT OF THE BLUE

It came out of the blue from the East one early Spring
casting a dark shadow over the world.
No one was expecting it.

Was it from the rare pangolins, from the laboratory nearby?
Wondering how, why, when, is a fruitless waste of energy.

As Covid-19 spread rapidly across the world
concern spread too.

Should we prepare, would it last long?

Then suddenly we were stopped in our tracks.

Lockdown.

No more hugs and kisses, no more seeing our friends,
no more meeting at our welcoming church,
no more walks in the countryside with the wind in our hair.
All alone, unsure, did you feel our fears?

Spring has passed, summer is here
and we are stuck where we were on 23rd March.

Yet there have been so many kindnesses.

Neighbours offering to do shopping,
kind friends leaving bags of comforting things on the doorstep,
a note, flowers, a magazine, chocolate.

Family doing what they can, sometimes in tears.

Already we have learned new skills, revisited old ones,
sourdough bread, making masks, sowing tomatoes and sunflowers.

With planes grounded and fewer cars, the air is cleaner.

Now the health of the planet gets much more respect.

But will we forget what it is like to breath fresh air again?

Nature has forced some into accepting there is climate change.

Is this God's call for justice?

The biggest health crisis in living memory
has stopped the world in its tracks.

The terrible toll on jobs has hit the poor and disadvantaged most.

With a struggle to find new jobs, benefits are surging.

Self esteem, mental and physical health are taking their toll.

It is a global catastrophe.

But there is so much for which we can be thankful.
Though all the days seem the same, there's an email from Gareth.
Thank goodness, its Sunday again!
Spiritually fed, calmed and filled with joy,
we are ready to face the world again.
Lord, we pray that you will put your hand in our hand
and fill us with your peace.
Somehow you will carry us through.

We pray for the NHS, care and key workers on the front line
as they work tirelessly, with little thought for themselves.
For those with the virus, struggling to breathe,
for the grieving, unable to hold the hand of a dying loved one,
for the lonely, longing for company,
for the scientists working day and night to find a vaccination.
May we never give up, never despair,
but remain full of hope and never forget to pray.

What will they say of us in fifty year's time?
Were we brave, patient, resourceful?
So let us reach out with our hearts
when we cannot touch with our hands,
sing for joy when we can hug our families and friends.
And remember Captain Sir Tom's words
"Tomorrow will be a good day."

Talking Point:

Stumbling towards a new normal

Although the pandemic lockdown has been of comparatively short duration in contrast with war, drought and other world crises experienced in recent times, we have already become used to commentators seeking 'a return to normal'. Freedom from fear, freedom to move about at will, to get back to work or school and

many other 'freedoms' are gathered into this craving for the 'normal'. At the same time, and in no way minimising the grief and anxiety of those who have succumbed to the virus, there have been many voices of appreciation for the unexpected gifts of this time. No-one who saw the extraordinary, once in a lifetime view of Mount Everest from Kathmandu, the pristine canals of Venice or experienced the astonishing peace of a largely traffic free city can doubt that we have seen a glimpse of other ways of living. I was particularly struck by a feature about how locked down children's birthday parties opened up a new potential of low cost creativity which many found more enjoyable. Already, moves are afoot to develop new cycle and walking networks that will reduce emissions from transport, and promote walking and cycling to work.

There is no doubt, too, that we have experienced a variety of unusual emotional responses, from losing track of the days of the week, to serious distress and loneliness. But we have learned a lot about what we can do without – face-to-face meetings are not perhaps as necessary as we thought. The flexibility of working from home has had attractions for many people. Increasing interest in gardening and baking are apparent, even if the latter has generated a matching increase in girth. So the 'new normal' might pay greater attention to home working, allowing for greater quality time and, along the way, reducing the demands on travel to work transport. We would also benefit from greater awareness of the need for better mental health services and responses to domestic violence, both areas that have experienced a significant rise in incidence.

At the same time we have learned that many occupations that were seldom noticed in 'normal times' are fundamental to the well being of us all. We have recognised that many of those workers who have been most exposed to the virus are paid the least. The reality of delays in payment of Universal Credit and the derisory level of sickness benefit have become apparent to many, along with the knowledge that a quarter of the population has savings of less than £100. And we have learned that even with a huge majority, the government can be successfully challenged, as the welcome U-turn

on NHS payments from migrant workers has shown. It is to be hoped that the 'new normal' will provide not only the Thursday night applause for health, social care and other key workers but will also put that value into their pay packets. As Ariel Dorfman wrote 'Realising the people who bring us food, take care of us and heal us are the most neglected in society was a revelation to many, but will this empathy endure when we emerge?'

Quite apart from the obvious awareness that somehow all of the government interventions will have to be paid for, we are also realising that collateral costs are being incurred by many organisations. You will see later in this edition the needs of our own church for financial support because, quite simply, income has been dramatically reduced. Meanwhile many who have not attended church for years have found comfort in the multitude of on-line worship opportunities. It has been shocking to hear of the theatres and concert venues that are threatened with closure. So the 'new normal' will need to embrace the value of our cultural and religious life as a central part of our identity as citizens.

Even closer to home, the crisis in food-banks has been an enormous concern. Sheffield has seen three helpful initiatives to share and coordinate food resources across the city; the amazing activities of Food Works, delivering 600 meals a day from food saved from landfill; the merging and extension of a number of food bank projects with the Trussell Trust; and the integration of most of the other food-banks with the Independent Food Bank network. This has enabled shared resources for fund raising and purchase of food at very low prices at a time when few have been able to donate or transport food directly. This in no way minimises the efforts of SAPL to support the food bank at St Cuthbert's, but it does speak to the benefits of integration and mutuality. All this at a time when dairy farmers were pouring milk away because the logistics were directed at the food industry and were not easily adapted to domestic consumers. A similar problem affected flour for which only a small amount went to direct sales. Even before the

pandemic there were calls for a national food strategy and this must now be addressed 'at pace' as the government likes to say.

The pandemic has affected every country in Europe – none quite so badly as the UK but, with the exception of some countries in South east Asia and Australasia, the world wide impact has been, and continues to be, much more severe. Not only are countries in the global south trying to combat the pandemic, they are also feeling the effects of fast shrinking aid resources. This week, Oxfam announced a major curtailment of programmes in 18 countries because the lockdown in the UK and Europe has lost them £5 millions each week. A friend who spent 8 years managing Oxfam's work in Afghanistan is devastated at the loss of all the vital services the NGO provided in that country, together with the knowledge of employment and income lost to so many of her former colleagues. And many more aid agencies will follow. But the question must be raised at every level: should we really be sustaining international development through charity shops?

Alongside keeping cleaner air and a gentler way of living, there have been other benefits at a personal and inter-personal level. Many of us have found that we do not need so much, whether clothes or other 'stuff'. Many of us have been heartened and even moved by the kindness and community spirit that has emerged. I have just acquired Rutger Bregman's book 'Humankind, a hopeful history' and while I have barely skimmed its 400 pages as yet, I think it may offer some hope for all of our futures. But what we have begun to realise is that while spontaneous acts can inspire us all, we cannot rely on isolated and uncoordinated actions to prop up our community, our country or indeed the world. If the pandemic has provided a single lesson it is that the whole world is in this together and we cannot simply pull up our drawbridge and look after ourselves.

Anne Hollows

Do please comment for our next edition. What would you like to return to and what would you be happy to leave behind?

Poetry Corner

Kate Clanchy, a teacher and writer uses poetry to inspire writing with secondary school pupils, many of whom are recent arrivals in the UK. Some of her students have now moved on through often-outstanding university careers and now work with poetry either in schools or excluded adults. The first poem is about quarantine while the second, which appears after the Interfaith report, was written after the recent maternity hospital massacre in Afghanistan. You can follow Kate and her students' work at [@KateClanchy](#)

The Statistics and the Silence

The statistics grew exponentially like
everyone's uncut hair or the hedges
forsaken by the council or the strangling
queues round shops. The statistics

couldn't understand why no one appreciated
their magnitude, why no one was proud of them.
They couldn't be kept quiet; too young to realise,
too old to be expected to find out for themselves.

Silence became chewy. Politicians
began to speak about science and scientists
began to speak about people, which confused
the statistics, slowing them down.

But they had already grown too far
to be reclaimed, like how
when I next see you you'll be a head taller
and I'd have missed it, my cousin

will have learnt to talk without me, my granny
will have shrunk, and the silence
will have begun to take root,
having taken our friends since the first day.

Linnet (17)

|

What have you been up to?

Just a few of the highlights of people's lock down activities –

Knitting baby hats;

Knitting toy animals;

Knitting blankets;

Making patchwork quilts;

Learning to make sour dough bread;

Reading, reading and more reading;

Zoom yoga/pilates/zumba;

PE with Joe (Wicks, not Dey!);

Long walks and bike rides;

Growing far too many courgette plants and lots more;

Improving foreign language skills;

Meditation;

Setting up and supporting neighbourhood groups;

And for some, learning the skills of hairdressing.

And this is what one Sheffield foster carer has been doing...

Learning to walk

Walking is complicated. Sometimes there are sticks, and stones, and tree roots, and spiders. And once you're off the carpet and in the real world, the ground you're trying to cover is almost never flat.

It seems our current foster child spent much of his first year inside a small apartment, where he saw little of the outside world, even through a window. He learned to crawl, but walking and talking were some distance away when he arrived with us at 13 months. So daily exercise since the lockdown has meant something slightly different to our small fellow householder.

At first he went with us to discover the local woods in a backpack, where he'd shout out and laugh at the waving branches and the space all around him. Other daily walkers could hear us coming from the other side of the woods.

But once he'd taken a few steps, he quickly became more confident at striding around the house, so we let him have a go at a woodland path. He spent an astonished twenty minutes swaying and stumbling along a 10 yard stretch of track, peering down at the stones and folds in the dry mud, placing every step with the care he checks his vegetables at dinner time. There he was, beginning to master his vestibular and proprioceptive skills ready for every day of the rest of his life. (I had to look those words up too). "Hurray!" we said. A week later, he tried a downhill. Roots and stones and tufts of grass, each one a small challenge, every uneven step a little surer than the last. There were small wooden steps to hurdle over, but he refused to hold my finger after the first three, and after he'd spent 10 minutes storming the distance Usain Bolt ran in 9.58 seconds, he stepped over another hurdle, looked up and demanded a round of applause.

Walking on uneven surfaces is such a complicated problem of balance and mechanical efficiency that some of the brightest minds are still struggling to teach a high powered robot to do it well. But our foster boy, like most humans, has learned to walk before he has the power of words to understand what on earth it is he's doing.

After his late start in active outdoor life, he's now catching up and walking more confidently. Now that his feet and legs know about bumps and gravity, he's getting ready to run. The quiet, scared little boy who arrived 5 months ago has learned he can be as excited about the world around him as anyone in their second year of life, as our local daily exercisers hear when they're within shouting distance.

We see the social media posts about baking, opinionating and crafting during lockdown, and we sometimes get asked what we've been doing. Well, we're foster carers, and we've been helping a scarred youngster get on with his life. We've helped a little boy learn how to walk.

If you're interested in becoming a foster carer with us, please phone 0114 2735075 or visit www.sheffield.gov.uk/fostering

The financial impact of the crisis on St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church – *how you can help*

Our income, made up of regular giving and fundraising events (63%) and lettings (36%), is approximately £154,000 per year, and our outgoings are about the same.

Since both the Church and Shirley House have been closed since mid-March due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our income from day lettings, which is usually around £23,000 per year, has been lost completely and we don't yet know the full extent to which our tenants, who pay the remaining £33,500 per year of our letting income, have been affected, since many of them are unable to use their offices. We have also lost any donations that would normally be made in Church, for example by putting cash in the plate or by using the envelope scheme. Our only income is from the people who so generously give by regular standing order.

Of course, since the Church building isn't being used at all at present and only a few of the Shirley House offices are open, our expenditure on gas and electricity have fallen by a lot. We are also making use of the Government's temporary furlough scheme to reduce staff costs. But we still have many fixed outgoings, such as the £66,000 that we pay to the Methodist Circuit and Anglican Diocese every year, and we need at least £30,000 to be available for urgent repair work on the Church spire and down pipes; and *although the Church Building is closed we wish to continue to provide our much appreciated on-line Worship on Sundays and Wednesdays, which is a significant additional strain on our finances.*

Our reserves at the end of the last financial year were £69,000, some of which can be used to get us through this crisis and carry out urgent maintenance work, but we can't rely on them forever – it has been predicted that the current situation could last for as long as two years and that the recovery to normality will be slow. If our lettings remain low and our office tenants decide that they can no longer afford to keep their premises, we are looking at an annual deficit of

£32,000 - £42,000 – this is completely unsustainable and we urgently need to do something to keep the Church open.

We have set up a Financial Recovery Team to come up with a strategy and take the necessary steps to help us survive this crisis – **but we really need your help too!**

If you would like to make a one-off donation, you can do this at our online giving page – either use the ‘Donate Now’ button on our website or use this link: <https://bit.ly/2zagnpe>, or send a cheque payable to ‘St Andrew’s Psalter Lane Church’ to the Church Office: St Andrew’s Psalter Lane Church Office, Shirley House, 31 Psalter Lane, SHEFFIELD S11 8YL.

It would be even better, though, if you could commit to donating regularly by standing order – that way we can budget our income more accurately (and you can budget your outgoings!). If you would like to do this, or if you would like to change your current standing order, please contact the Church Office, either at the above address or at office@standrewspsalterlane.org.uk.

Whichever option you choose – or even if you choose both! – please remember to complete a Gift Aid declaration if you are a taxpayer in the UK; this increases the value of your donation to us by 25% without costing you any more.

It will be wonderful to be together and worshipping in our Church again - Thank you for your help in making this happen!

Interfaith News

News from Shirley House Interfaith Centre

- Obviously there is no Interfaith 'news' as all activities here, and all faith community buildings, ceased as the last edition of Nexus went to press. Everything planned for spring and summer will be re-arranged for later in the year. However, online communication and interaction have continued both within and between the various faith groups.

Apart from the lovely services Gareth, Simon and others have



produced for SAPLC each week, there have been services, prayers, readings, social 'gatherings' and talks available on the internet from Sikhs, Jews, Hindus and Muslims. Also, various interesting postings have appeared on the sheffieldinterfaith.org.uk website. Abdool Kadir of the Islamic Society of Great Britain suggested the following actions in response to the pandemic:

- (i) participating in live-streamed acts of worship,
- (ii) meditating and praying in the silence of their homes,
- (iii) reading and reflecting on passages from the Holy Scriptures of one's spiritual tradition and
- (v) other spiritual reading.

Our Pagan friend Lynn Rishworth replied "So Mought it Be" which is a traditional Pagan expression used a bit like "Amen", i.e. adding support to Abdool's writing.

Lent and Easter seemed especially poignant and meaningful as numbers of sick and dying rose sharply, followed by some uplifting stories of recovery. It was also easy to see the parallels with Passover and the plagues of Egypt. Now we are in the Holy month of Ramadan, in which Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, pray more frequently and celebrate breaking their fast, 'Iftar', with their extended families and communities. In the past I have been fortunate to be invited to Iftars in both private houses and Mosques. This year the Dialogue Society arranged an online evening to 'transmit the spirit of this moment of peace, fellowship and truth' with guest speakers from Sheffield, some videos about Ramadan, live music and greetings from around the world.

Tragically, it appears that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people have suffered more severe illness and greater numbers of deaths from Covid19, and our prayers go out to them and their families, whatever faith, or none, they follow.

Caroline Cripps

May 12th, 2020.

Born into a
strange world
after the dark in the womb.

In my mother's arm, wrapped warmly in her shawl
my little hand curls around her pinky finger.

I feel her soft breath
blow on my hand.

I was just born. O hear me.

My mother smiles through her exhaustion
the other mothers groaning in labour,
their pain echoing through the rooms.

When the gunmen came in

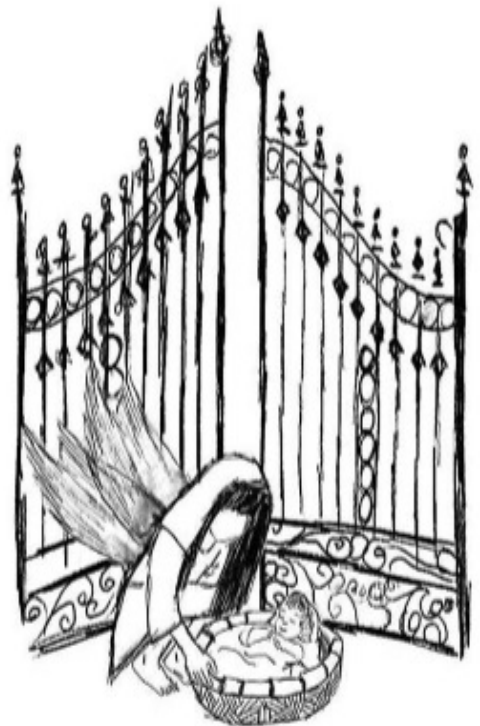
I was just born. O hear me.

There are bullets holes on the walls
on my mother's womb.

He hung his death veil
over my almond eyes,
over my ears that had not
yet heard the Azan.

I am Hazara. O hear me.

Shukria Rezaei



Lockdown readers

By Alan Waddon and Jean Allen.

The book I am reading at the moment: (Alan)

“The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini. A bit disappointed – was expecting more after all the hype.

The book that changed my life

To answer this with brutal honesty, I’d probably have to give the name of a school text-book, but I’m not sure that’s what this is getting at (!) so I’m going to say “The History of God” by Karen Armstrong. Why? Because the theme of the book could be described as the whole of humanity’s journey to understand and seek the divine, and, as you read the book, you can sense how the author’s own personal theological ideas have developed and changed over time. And when I read this, I felt that I was on very much on the same journey, moving from an evangelical background as a child to a much more fluid, liberal and questioning faith...

The book that had the greatest influence on me

“The Power and the Glory” by Graham Greene. The themes of fallibility, religious devotion and simple humanity struck a chord!

The book that is most overrated

I’d go for “The Old Man and the Sea” by Ernest Hemingway. Read it a very long time ago and maybe I missed something, but it certainly didn’t “do it for me” (Nobel Prize or not!).

The book that made me cry

Not sure I actually cried, but “Tess of the D’Urbervilles” certainly left me feeling pretty melancholic.

The last book that made me laugh

Used to find Tom Sharpe very funny. I was very amused by “Porterhouse Blue”, a delightfully provocative satire of a particularly old fashioned Cambridge University college.

The book I couldn't finish

Oh, a few! e.g.

“A Brief History of Time” by Stephen Hawking (I'm not alone with that one!)

“The Fringes of Power: Downing Street Diaries: 1939-55” by Jock Colville, the diary of Churchill's private secretary during and after the Second World War. I almost got through and not sure why I stopped - what I read was fascinating. Should really go back and finish the job. I'm a sucker for history and always wonder what other paths history may have taken if different decisions had been taken on different days.

The book I give as a gift

Not big on giving books as gift – whenever I try, I usually end up with something pretty lame and innocuous!

My earliest reading memory

I read tons of Enid Blyton when I was child – anyone else remember the stories of Brer Rabbit and Brer Fox, or tales of the Famous Five (all washed down with lashings of ginger beer, of course!)?

My comfort read

“Jonathan Livingston Seagull” by Richard Bach. A deceptively simple book with the message of hope eventually triumphing through struggles.

The book I am reading at the moment: (Jean)

I have just finished The Mirror and the Light, the third volume in Hilary Mantel's trilogy about Thomas Cromwell. In preparation for reading it I re-read the first two volumes, Wolf Hall and Bring up the Bodies. I am now firmly ensconced in Tudor times.

The book that changed my life

Jane Eyre -

The book that had the greatest influence on me

Jane Eyre again ...

The book that is most overrated

The book I think is most overrated (my opinion only) is One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. I have tried to read it several times, but given up within a few pages each time.

The book that made me cry

The Mirror and the Light (no spoilers)

The last book that made me laugh

The Department of Sensitive Crimes by Alexander McCall Smith. This is a Scandi blanc novel (as opposed to a Scandi noir novel), and so funny and gentle that I was utterly charmed.

The book I couldn't finish

One Hundred Years of Solitude again. I usually finish books!

The book I give as a gift

The Uses of Enchantment: the meaning and importance of fairy tales by Bruno Bettelheim. A fascinating book by a flawed author showing the importance of fairy stories in all their gory glory.

My earliest reading memory

Reading The Beano when I was very young, also Rupert the Bear annuals. I swiftly graduated to Biggles, and after that there was no stopping me!

My comfort read

Anything by Alexander McCall Smith, especially the 44 Scotland Street series



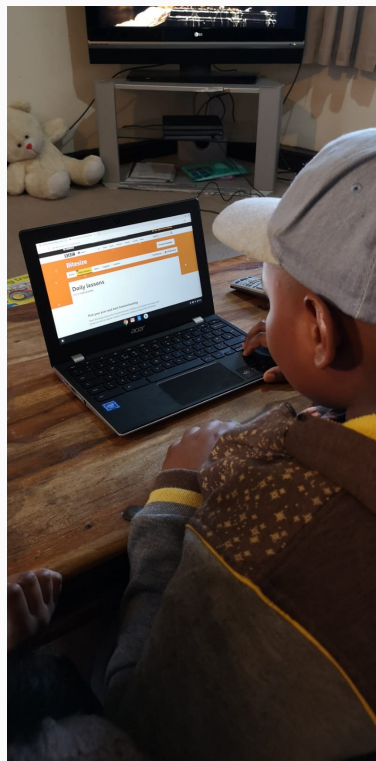
City of Sanctuary Sheffield

Creating a Culture of Welcome

"These laptops are a lifeline for families"

Dear Supporter,

Although we all face continuing difficulties I'm excited to share with you one of the projects that City of Sanctuary Sheffield has been running, one which is ensuring that those seeking sanctuary are **included, connected and supported** during the Covid-19 pandemic



The Project

The Homeschool Support Project is providing laptops, data, telephone IT support, as well as additional homeschooling materials, to families seeking sanctuary. This is helping to tackle the educational inequalities faced by asylum seekers, many of whom don't otherwise have reliable access to crucial digital resources.

The Numbers

- **80** laptops delivered supporting **192** children
- **240** months of data provided
- **100's** of additional homeschool support materials delivered
- **ALL** asylum seeking families with school age children in Sheffield and Doncaster supported

A huge **Thank You** to everyone who has donated money and additional home school resources to the project. It is because of you that we have been able to do this.

How can you continue to help?

1. Share:

Share this work on social media and with your friends and family

2. Donate:

Help support the work of City of Sanctuary Sheffield here



[Donate](#)

3. Act:

Support the national call to install WIFI in asylum accommodation [here](#)

Eco Church

How Bad are Bananas?

This is not a book review (though this is an interesting read), but the information given here is taken from “How Bad Are Bananas” by Mike Berners-Lee (yes, his brother is Tim, the internet guy). Mike has a consultancy that “specializes In the carbon footprints of

products and services”. All below is a greatly simplified picture, but I hope it makes the point?

We know if we drive our car from A to B, we produce carbon emissions (CO₂) from the diesel/petrol used (and particulates, those little things which affect lungs, especially those of small children, whose developing lungs are at the height of a car exhaust). But that is only a small part of the picture. There is the carbon stored in making the car; that needed to bring the fuel to the petrol station; the machines which take our money etc.

Mike Berners-Lee aims to include all of that in CO₂ e (CO₂ equivalent). He also thinks we should aspire to a 10-tonne lifestyle which, in the UK would probably mean most of us reducing our annual carbon footprint by 1/3.

Here are three (small) everyday examples from his book:

- Mug of tea or coffee: 21g CO₂ e if you boil just the water you need, or 53g CO₂ e if you add milk: 71 g CO₂ e, with milk, if you boil twice the amount of water you need; 346 g CO₂ e for a large latte.
- A web search: using estimates from Google as to the energy required at their end, and depending on the efficiency of your commuter: between 2 and 14 seconds of 10 tonne living for a 30-second single search.
- Plastic carrier bag: 3g CO₂e for a very lightweight variety, 10g CO₂ e for a standard weight supermarket bag; 50g CO₂ e for a heavyweight reusable bag. So, you need to use your reusable one at least 5 times or it is better to use a disposable one (or avoid plastic carrier bags totally).

Of course, the book looks at lots of other items, emitting large and small amounts of CO₂ e! This has certainly sparked my thinking; hope it does the same for you, as we live in lockdown and when we are able to ease back into more normal times. (Bananas don't come out

too badly on the CO2 e scale, though there are other considerations which may not be as positive!)

Chris Lowry

By the way, I've noticed my lungs have improved in recent weeks – and I didn't think I had any problem before. Could that have any connection with the reduction in vehicle emissions and particulates recently? What do you think?

May 21st was World Bee Day! 'Bee' active in your garden

We are sad to tell you that 41% of insect species face extinction (Read report [here](#)). The loss of their habitats and overuse of pesticides are two major reasons why these little creatures are dying out eight times faster than large mammals. However, it's not too late, by working together, we can change the future of bees and all insects. Starting right now, you can make small changes in your home, lifestyle and community that will help these fascinating creatures.

You can get more information from <https://www.wildsheffield.com/>

The Sheffield and Rotherham wildlife trust.

Follow the advice in their Wildlife Gardening - Action for Insects guide and create an insect-friendly garden that is teeming with wildlife. Packed full of easy to follow advice and tips. Their guide will help you to:

- Create a wildlife and insect-friendly garden.
- Plan your garden and choose the right plants.
- Stop using harmful chemicals inside your home and in your garden.
- Make lifestyle changes that will benefit insects.
- Find out more interesting facts and information to help create a Wilder Sheffield and Rotherham.

Thank you for taking action for insects.




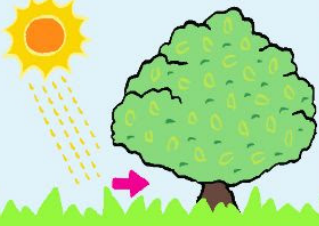
Make a Bumblebee Nest

Cracks in walls, rockery piles and corners of sheds will all provide safe spaces for insects to hide from predators, to breed, and to live during poor weather. You can give them more of a helping hand by building a [bumblebee nest](#) or [insect hotel](#).

How to build a bumblebee nest



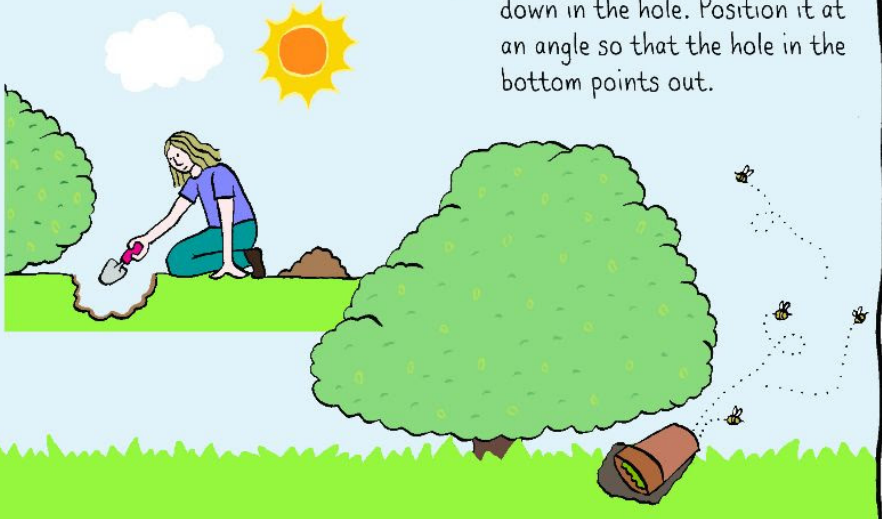
You will need:

- terracotta flower pot 
- trowel 
- dry grass or moss 
- sheltered spot that gets some sun 

1 Dig a small, shallow hole under a bush. Your chosen site should not get too hot or too cold, and be in sun for about half of the day.

2 Fill the flowerpot with dry grass and/or moss. 

3 Half-bury the flowerpot upside down in the hole. Position it at an angle so that the hole in the bottom points out.



(preferably under a bush)

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Gardening Notes: Locked in the garden

As I write this we have just had some much needed rain. I have had cracks in the soil of my allotment before, but not this big nor in April! I even tried sweeping some compost into them. It didn't work.



Anywhere that was not being watered by me was parched. Weeds like hairy bitter cress drying out and dying. But the cold clean air, bright sunshine and lack of rain has given us a flower filled spring unlike any I have seen. The cold has meant that normally fleeting flowers like Dog's Tooth Violets have lasted 10 days. Though the strong sun scorched the Camellia flower we got. Clear blue skies have lifted our spirits and access to the space of our gardens has kept us in a state that passes for sane. And as part of a decision to remain positive I have taken pictures of beautiful flowers and put them onto the forum that sucks up time called "Facebook." The Crows in the woods of Brincliffe are nesting again and driving away any raptors. The Buzzard is chased off easily, though it probably only came because of the up draught whereas the Sparrow Hawk is an aeronaut getting the better of the Crows then sliding along the wind and slipping away through the trees.

If the drought continues don't bother watering the lawn. Do water fruit trees on dwarfing rootstocks, new plantings and plants in pots. Potted plants need to be on saucers or group them in trays. Shade the greenhouse. I use 'Coolglass' and old net curtains. I plan to manage without poisoning insects as I have more insect eating plants this year. Drosera, Pinguicula and Sarracenia were all bought on line earlier this year and are gruesomely effective. Hopefully we won't get many more gales but netting over your fruit bushes will reduce wind damages as well as loss of the berries. The risk of frost has gone at last so plant your pumpkins. A cloche might still help them thrive. They do like it hot.

I was previous with my Dahlias this year and lost a few inches of most of them to the frost. My overwintering plans with the dry leaves in boxes instead of newspaper did not go well. I lost about half of them. It wasn't a good idea. Nothing worse than confident and wrong! Open-faced flowers are more use to pollinating insects than doubles. Things that look like daisies are always a good idea. Snapdragons are fun with both the flower and it's name enjoyed by children. Pick your courgettes frequently unless you like marrows.

It has been good to see more people gardening this year. Hopefully they will carry on. We still don't know how or if we will manage a show this year. We will be in good company if we don't. I hope you

all continue to enjoy your gardens and if they bring you half as much pleasure and satisfaction as mine does you will be fine. I would be lost without it.

Keep growing, love Bill.

Food and Feasting

Focaccia

500g strong white flour

7g fast action yeast powder

2 tsp sea salt

5 tbsp olive oil

1 tsp flaky sea salt

small sprigs of rosemary

1. Tip the flour into a large [mixing bowl](#). Mix the yeast into one side of the flour, and the fine salt into the other side. Then mix everything together, this initial separation prevents the salt from killing the yeast.
2. Make a well in the middle of the flour and add 2 tbsp oil and 350-400ml lukewarm water, adding it gradually until you have a slightly sticky dough (you may not need all the water). Sprinkle the work surface with flour and tip the dough onto it, scraping around the sides of the bowl. Knead for 5-10 mins until your dough is soft and less sticky. Put the dough into a clean bowl, cover with a tea towel and leave to prove for 1 hr until doubled in size.
3. Oil a rectangle, shallow tin (25 x 35cm). Tip the dough onto the work surface, then stretch it to fill the tin. Cover with a tea towel and leave to prove for another 35-45 mins.
4. Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Press your fingers into the dough to make dimples. Mix together 1½ tbsp olive oil, 1

- tblsp water and the flaky salt and drizzle over the bread. Push sprigs of rosemary into the dimples in the dough.
5. Bake for 20 mins until golden. Whilst the bread is still hot, drizzle over 1-2 tblsp olive oil. Cut into squares and serve warm or cold with extra olive oil, if you like.
-

Support St Mary's - Buy your flour and yeast

Buy your flour from us, and support emergency food provision

Home bakers of Sheffield!

You can now buy flour and yeast from us, while directly supporting our work delivering emergency food boxes to vulnerable families across the city. Last week we delivered supplies to over 300 households, and this need is growing. We are selling top quality Yorkshire milled flour, in bags of 2.5kg at cost-price, and we expect you will donate to support our work. To order, copy and paste this link on your browser.

[**www.breadforsheffield.wixsite.com/flour**](http://www.breadforsheffield.wixsite.com/flour)

Collect in person:

St Mary's Church Bramall Lane S2 4QZ. Open 9-5pm
Tues, Wed, Thurs.

11 Greystones Ave, S11 7AY. Open 2-4pm Thurs.

Hammer & Pincers, Bents Green, S11 7PW. Open 2-4pm Thurs.

Help spread the word, share the website above with your baking friends!

News from our local community:

Enough is Enough: Community Comes Together Following Local Shootings

Common Ground Community Centre sits just off Abbeydale Road in Nether Edge and has undergone an amazing revival over the last few years. The garden space, hall and meeting rooms have become well used by local groups, families and by Family Voice who run classes for women with English as a Second Language. The National Lottery, the church and local council are all supporting refurbishment of the building and green space. It is a wonderful success story of community effort and passion.

However, once lockdown hit and a Police camera was removed, the outdoor space started to become used by drug dealers and intimidating groups of men. Despite efforts to prevent the situation worsening, things came to crisis point last Friday when there were 4 shooting incidents in the area. In one of these incidents shots were fired on Machon Bank and Common Ground.

Local residents were shocked and scared for themselves and their children. "I feel angry that these people have taken away my security and freedom." More than 20 local residents spoke to Common Ground and Family Voice directly, about ways of resolving these long running issues. People talked about the increased need for anonymous reporting of anti-social behaviour (ASB), strained police resources, how the community need to get together and that "Enough is Enough".

The Police camera on Machon Bank was already planned to be returned and went back up on Monday. On Tuesday 18 people from local organisations attended the Abbeydale Stakeholders meeting with Inspector Fitzgibbons (South West Neighbourhood Team) and heard how detectives and pro-active teams were working hard on collating intelligence and, following a number of arrests, that more firearms and drugs had been seized over the weekend. They have also increased Police presence in all the areas affected. Sharrow Community Forum and the Fire Service will be working together to

increase reporting of ASB. Family Voice are producing a multilingual social media flyer to help people know what they can do to help the situation. Common Ground are planning to extend CCTV coverage. Common Ground's small urban green space looks pretty and calm in today's low evening sun. We are still a little fragile but with Lockdown a little loosened, increased Police presence and the weather due to improve – we are feeling hopeful that the garden will be safe and used again by families and dog walkers over the coming days and weeks ahead.

That is not to say that moving the drugs issue to another place is the answer. People across this community also work hard on the wider and long-term issues of drug dealing – with schools (increasing awareness of how to engage young people from different backgrounds), with families (reducing isolation and increasing confidence and knowledge) and with young people (MumsUnited running anti knife crime courses). There will of course be more discussion and positive action to come.

Nether Edge, Abbeydale and Sharrow are beautiful, diverse and vibrant areas of the city with a strong sense of community. These events affect everyone across our community and we will not be divided but will come together and work hard to make sure we have a safe, welcoming and wonderful neighbourhood for everybody.
by Common Ground Community Centre and Family Voice Sheffield CIC

LIFE WITHOUT BROWNIES

Although when I was a child I wasn't a Brownie or a Guide and I knew nothing about Girlguiding, I have spent the past 40 years enjoying the challenge of planning and running activities for Brownies (girls aged 7-10 years old). Their enthusiasm and energy has encouraged me to try many new activities including canoeing, climbing wall, zip wire, some very muddy assault courses and, when we stayed overnight at a PGL activity centre in Lincolnshire last year, a terrifying high-wire course. To expand the girls' experiences, I've asked friends to come and talk about their specialism such as road safety, bike

maintenance, geology, Water Aid, wood carving and small animals (a favourite) and I like taking them to Sheffield's less well known parts (such as Wincobank, Manor Lodge and the Cholera Monument). Brownies promise to "Think of others before myself..." which means we have collected items and fund-raised for a variety of charities including the Archer Project, British Heart Foundation and WWF's animals, delivered harvest goodies to elderly people, sung/performed at local care homes, litter picked on our way to local parks and participated in Sirena's reduce, reuse, recycle yarnstorming trail during the 2019 Nether Edge Festival. Girlguiding gives the girls the opportunity to work for interest badges and develop a wide range of skills including cooking, performing, canoeing, camp fire making, whittling and swimming.

Over a year ago, the Girlguiding programme was completely overhauled – something which the girls have embraced but I still have to conquer - and for which I greatly appreciate the help of Poppy and Sarah, my two very competent assistants.

Our May sleepover in London on board HMS Belfast has had to be postponed due to Covid-19 but I hope we'll be allowed to restart our Brownie meetings before the end of the Summer term.

Chris Venables, 17th Sheffield Brownies (Monday)

Church and Community

These groups and activities are currently suspended but we look forward to continuing as soon as we can safely do so.

Regular Groups

Knit and Knatter

Mondays 10-12 noon Knit and Knatter. In Shirley House. Contact: Alison Gregg, 266 5638.

Parent and Baby Group: New baby in the family? Join our friendly group of parents - Mums and/or Dads with babies up to 12 months. Friday mornings during term time 10.00 – 11.30 at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church. It's a chance to meet other new

parents in friendly relaxed surroundings. Refreshments teas, coffees, other beverages and home made cakes. Cost: £2.00 per family per week Contact Muriel on 2551473 or Jean 2550198

17th Sheffield Monday Brownies

Mondays at St Andrew's Hall from 5.45pm – 7.15pm. If you are at all interested, please contact Chris Venables. 07950 432487 for further information.

The Tuesday Café

The Tuesday Café, our café for people living with memory loss or dementia and their carers opened in the middle of March. The café takes place in the narthex in church on Tuesday mornings between 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon . We intend that it will be open every Tuesday of the year (except Christmas Day!) The café offers hot drinks, biscuits and homemade cakes, music, memory activities, and the opportunity for a chat. The café already has a good group of volunteers from the congregation and we are also grateful to those who have offered to bake for us. If you know anyone who might be interested in coming to the café, do please take flyer with all the information. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Judith Roberts.

Church Family

Congratulations to

Janet and Bob Ash following their Golden Wedding anniversary

Our thoughts and prayers are with

Alison and Ian Gregg following the death of Geoffrey Terry

Iain and Ann Blair following the death of Iain's mother

Sheila Smith and family, neighbours of SAPLC, following the death of David Smith

those with health concerns: Chris Lowry, John Kenward, Peter Rothwell, Pam Frost, Pat Tang, Marilyn Godber, Pril Rishbeth, Mollie Anniss, Dorothy Bryars, Lisa Solk and Fiona Needham

those continuing to recover after times in hospital: John Booter, Q Ackom-Mensah and Essie Bentley

Young SAPLC

Junior Church: (Pebbles 3-5, Stones 6-10,) is during the main service at 10.30. Children between 2 and 3 can join in the youngest group (Pebbles) with a parent/carer). Our Sunday 2 service is for children and their parent(s) or carers

About our services

As you will know, we are currently unable to worship together in church but for anyone new to Nexus , we include details of our current arrangements, followed by our usual arrangements, to which we hope we will soon return.

JUNE - JULY 2020 ONLINE SERVICES

The link to services will be sent by email on Saturday evening or early Sunday morning to all on our list, and will also be on the Home Page of the SAPLC website. We hope you will enjoy these services and feel connected to your St Andrew's Psalter Lane friends as we join in worship. We are very grateful to the team who work so hard to bring these services to us when we need them, and do it so beautifully

June 7th	Trinity Sunday	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
June 14th	First Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Sunday2	<i>Imogen Clout</i>
June 21st	Second Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
June 28th	Third Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Judith Roberts</i>
July 5th	Fourth Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Anthony Ashwell</i>
July 10th	Fifth Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Sunday2	<i>Imogen Clout</i>
July 17th	Sixth Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Holy Communion	<i>Revd Gareth Jones</i>
July 24th	Seventh Sunday after Trinity	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	<i>Jenny Carpenter</i>

Wednesday services

There is also a Zoom service at 11.00 am on Wednesdays. The format of the service is readings with pauses, a led meditation, a psalm and prayer, with some music at the beginning and the end. There is also some time for conversation together at the end. The links to these services are sent in a separate email message the day before.

We are very grateful to Imogen Clout for organising the Wednesday services.

When we are able, we will resume our normal pattern of services as follows:

Sunday Services

Normal pattern: 10.30 am Service: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays Holy Communion service; 4th Sunday, Morning Worship

Please note that the bread used in our Sunday communion services is gluten free. Both fermented and unfermented communion wines are used.

Monthly services: 2nd Sunday: Sunday2 – Breakfast and family service from 9 am

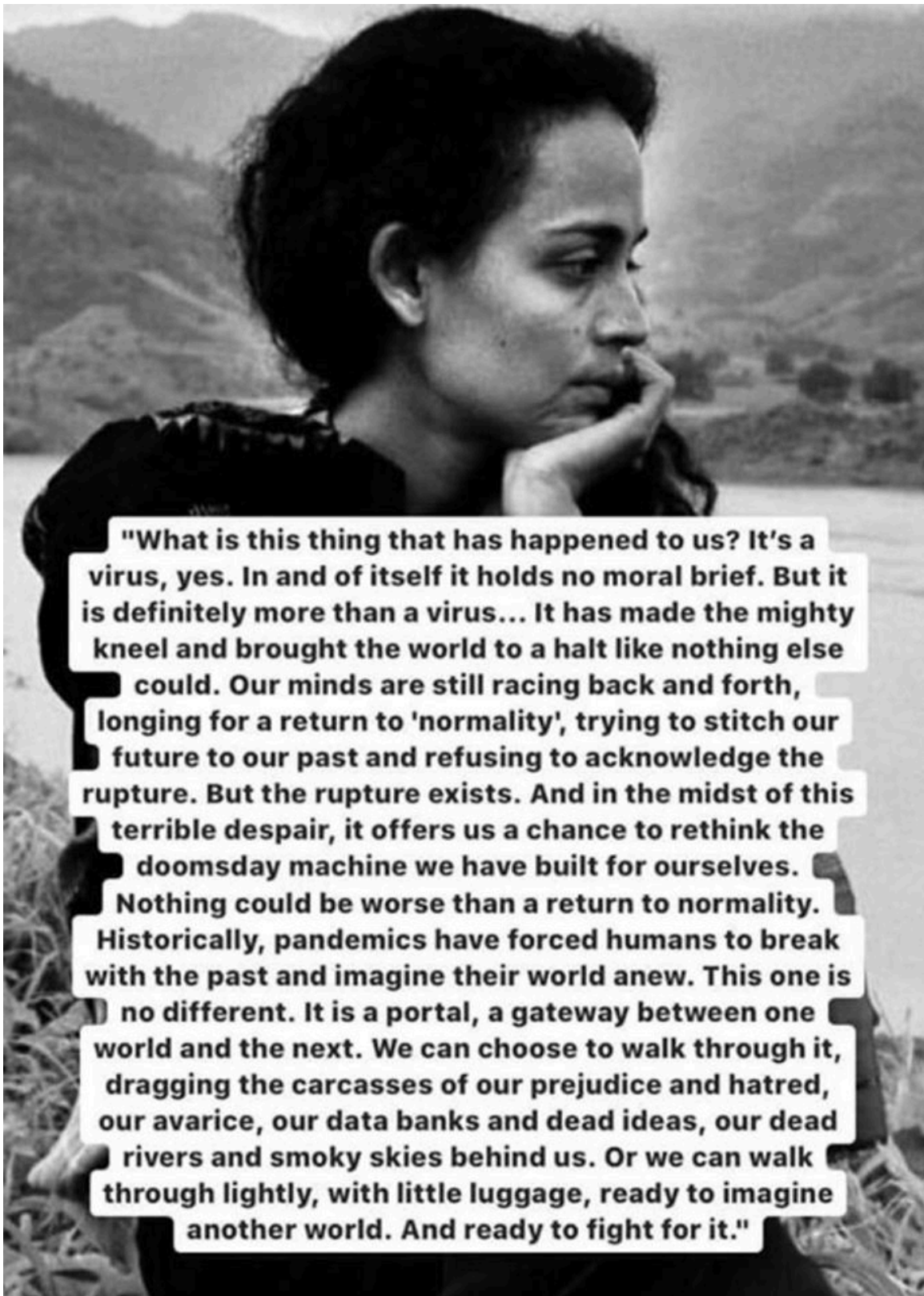
4th Sunday – Holy Communion at 9.15 am (using Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer)

2nd Sunday – Holy Communion at Southcroft, 6.30 pm

Wednesday Services

At the 10.00 Communion service on Wednesdays, we reflect together on a piece of spiritual writing. This may be from one of the Christian traditions, or sometimes from another tradition of faith. The person leading the service will make copies of the piece of writing to give out to everyone. Come and enjoy an oasis of reflective calm in the middle of a busy week, and join us for coffee or tea afterwards

Last words, from Arundhati Roy



"What is this thing that has happened to us? It's a virus, yes. In and of itself it holds no moral brief. But it is definitely more than a virus... It has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to 'normality', trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists. And in the midst of this terrible despair, it offers us a chance to rethink the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves. Nothing could be worse than a return to normality. Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it."