

St Peter's Church, Raunds

Newsletter No. 31

May 2020



I hope you are all keeping well and, for those particularly in isolation, finding ways of keeping occupied. This past month has seen a great change in lifestyle for most people. Raunds High Street is easy to drive through and plenty of parking spaces! Panic buying has subsided and shopping is a different experience. Everybody seems to be well aware of social distancing and prepared to wait.

The Sunday services **at 10am** on YouTube have proved successful (see 4spires). If you miss it **at 10 am** you can watch it later. A new experience was the monthly Wednesday Worship using Zoom. This app enabled us to chat with others from the benefice, as well as a time of prayer and praise with Simon on guitar and Nick on piano, and some PowerPoint. Fortunately, Jon muted us all during the singing!

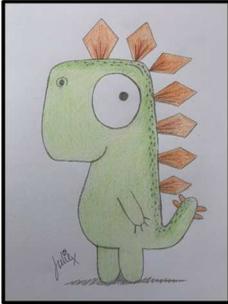
There has been a strong sense of community spirit within Raunds during this difficult time and there are various organisations offering help. Jon and his team have been kept busy with shopping, collecting prescriptions etc. If you know of anyone who needs help, or just needs a chat do let us know.

In the meantime, stay safe and keep your faith!

Judy



Artists in the making @ St. Peter's CE Academy



Mrs Casswell's
Gregasaurus

Following school closures on the 20th March, St. Peter's CE Academy have been providing online learning opportunities for their children to complete at home. Weekly lessons are posted on their website and any links to great websites are shared via social media pages.

Mrs Casswell, the Principal at St. Peter's, tried out an online drawing tutorial with her young children as part of a drawing lesson. The author and illustrator Rob Biddulph, demonstrates



Tyler's Gregasaurus
and Sausage Dog



Noah's Penguin Blue

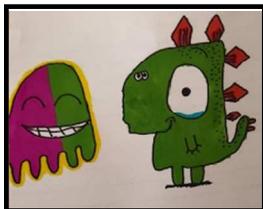
how to draw the characters from his picture books under the hashtag #drawwithrob. The link can be found here, <http://www.robbiddulph.com/draw-with-rob>.

The tutorial offers a step by step guide to drawing each character which is simple to

follow. There are lots of different animals to draw and you can add your own personality and style to each sketch through the colour added at the end .

Many of our children have tried out the drawing tutorial whilst learning at home and we have been sent some amazing sketches.

Why not have a go – they are great fun for all ages!



Harry's Gregasaurus



Erin's Fred Bear

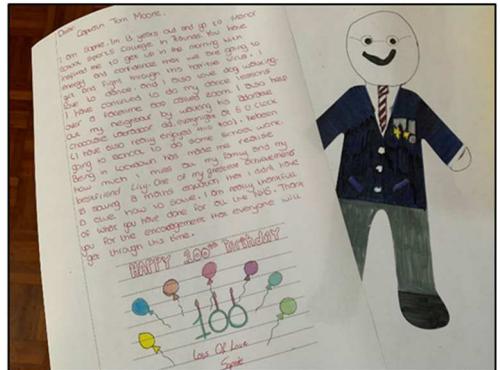


Nene
Education
Trust

Last week, the children attending the key worker provision from our Trust schools created birthday cards and wrote personalised letters to Captain Tom Moore as part of his 100th birthday celebrations.



The children, aged 4 – 15 years old, whose parents include nurses, carers, shop workers, delivery drivers as well as some of our vulnerable children, used their creative talents to make their tribute colourful, bright and fitting for



such an amazing man. We hope you like them Tom and well done for raising over £27 million pounds for the NHS charities fund.



Ginny Pledger— Child & Family Worker

My report this month is rather brief due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Obviously all one to one contact with our church groups and schools is suspended during these unusual times. It does mean though that I am still able to serve our community but in a different way. I am working answering the telephone in the mornings (usually Mondays and Wednesday) taking calls from vulnerable members our community who need shopping or prescriptions collecting. Then in the afternoons Rev. Jon will email the volunteers across our Benefice for those that need shopping and then I go collecting the prescriptions and delivering them to those predominantly in the Raunds area. I'm getting quite well known in Meadow Lane Pharmacy all whilst avoiding the bees nest!!

We have collectively managed to assist over 200 households in 3 weeks which I think is a great thing to be able to do for our communities.

I have been trying to maintain contact with our regular groups, for example with Little Sunbeams we are holding a virtual coffee and chat session via Facebook on Tuesday mornings and for Messy Church we sent out a 'Spot the Easter Egg' picture. It's not the same as being able to meet together properly but it is still good to maintain contact and just be there to talk to people.

Please join me in praying for our communities as we all learn to adjust to these strange times.

God bless and keep safe and well

Ginny Pledger

Child & Family Worker

4 Spires Benefice – Raunds, Hargrave, Ringstead & Stanwick



Lessons From the Past

What a strange Easter! Locked down, no family or friends visiting and church closed! Who would have thought we would have settling down in front of the computer to watch a live stream from the vicarage or in front of the TV for a televised service instead of walking up the steps or along the path to St Peter's?

Churches being closed is such an extraordinary idea it made me wonder whether there have been other times in the past that this has happened. A quick google search led me to the 1918-19 influenza pandemic when an estimated 20 to 40 million people died worldwide. Coming so soon after the end of the war, the country struggled to cope and it is reported that many theatres, dancehall, churches and other public gathering places were closed for months. I wonder if Raunds St Peter's was?

A famous example of church services being moved in times of illness comes from Eyam in the Derbyshire Dales in the times of the 1665 plague outbreak. The rector introduced a number of precautions to limit the spread of the illness including relocating church services to the natural amphitheatre of Cucklett Delph which allowed "social distancing" (although I think that is a 21st century expression!)

Of course, churches can close if they are no longer needed for worship. They may be converted to a suitable alternative use, demolished or preserved by the Churches Conservation Trust. St Peter's Church (the one on a grass mound opposite the train station), Northampton is an example of the latter. You used to be able to go to the Ibis Hotel and borrow the huge key and look inside. Not sure if you still can but it is beautifully decorated and now used as a concert venue and rehearsal space.

Eight hundred years ago, the most important person in the land, Pope Innocent III, who although didn't live in England had huge influence, ordered all churches to close as he and King John disputed who was to be the next Archbishop.

This "lockdown" lasted for 6 years. Let's hope ours is considerably shorter!

Raunds Community Café and Foodbank



Raunds Food Bank—April 2020

Raunds Foodbank has remained open and we have seen a growing need. Most clients have come as referrals with very few dropping in. Raunds Area Volunteers are delivering the parcels for us, and also helping to collect donations. We are covering a wider area, and clients have been from Titchmarsh, Woodford as well as Raunds and Thrapston.

We have been overwhelmed with people's generosity- both financially and with food. We were given a lot of fresh produce from Burger King, Greggs at Thrapston, Subway and Howdens canteen when they closed. Also, QD and Podington Garden Centre gave a lot of Easter produce and we were able to make up hampers for the staff and clients at the care homes in Raunds. A couple filled a trolley at Raunds Co-op with £200 of items and left it to be collected for the Foodbank. A big thank you goes to Toni Wright who has offered to act as a collection point and helps promote us on social media.

The Foodbank is now open on Thursday mornings from 9.30 till 11.30 and can be contacted on enquiries@raundsfoodbank.co.uk, or through [RaundsFoodbank Facebook Page](#) or 01933 730160



LOCKDOWN

Living with Lockdown

We will all have different experiences of this period. For me, the past month has been extremely busy and isolation has been easy to maintain. Calving, lambing and the good weather enabling fieldwork have coincided this year. I realise I am so blessed to be outside much of the time, even if it is often hard work.

My closest family live abroad but we have been able to keep in touch using Zoom, to all chat together (although the time differences can make it difficult). We have taken part in "pub quizzes", the teams coming from different parts of the world. My niece lives in Rome, one of the first places to be put in strict lockdown. She is a teacher and they were given a couple of days warning to set up remote teaching (all the pupils had school laptops). She lives in a flat with her partner who also works remotely from home. They only go out to walk the dog and for shopping in the local shops. They have a good social life (remotely) and remain positive despite the length of time. In Alberta, Canada the lockdown came early on with schools and public parks closed. Towns in the Rockies banned outsiders and ski resorts closed. My other daughter is a doctor in A and E in New Zealand. A strict lockdown was put in place early on with severe penalties for disregarding the rules. Those entering the country had to spend their 14 days in quarantine at a designated place, not at home. At the hospital all non-urgent surgery was cancelled, and the departments well set up for Covid and non Covid patients. This seems to have paid off as there have been very few deaths and hospital staff haven't been busy. In fact, the lockdown is being lifted slightly to allow domestic flights and some construction work.

Judy



Our thoughts and prayers are with the dedicated workers in the NHS, emergency services, care workers and all those helping people in need through these difficult times.

Our thanks to Captain Tom for setting such a positive example and optimistic outlook on life. A way of life that we should aim to aspire to.

God bless you all and keep safe.

Future Newsletter Publications

To ensure you receive future copies promptly you can opt to receive yours by email.

Simply register this preference along with your email address to:-
stephen_clements@btinternet.com

June Newsletter

Just a quick reminder that the closing date for the next issue is Sunday 24th May.