Church Action on Poverty Sunday

www.kempstoneastmethodist.org
Dear Friends,

"Let your light so shine" Matthew 5 V16

I think I speak for most, when I say, that this third period of lockdown is proving rather tedious. Short daylight hours and long nights, coupled with inclement weather is not so good for the soul, but hope is just around the corner with the coming of Spring, longer daylight hours and milder weather. The last year has, however, given us time to discern what matters most to us, the everyday things that bring structure to our lives and that we miss the most. Worshipping in church is high on the agenda and I find myself referring to Psalm 84, "Longing for God's House," regularly. It is comforting to know that early Christians also encountered such longings to be in the house of the Lord.

Two weeks ago, I attended a virtual Burns Supper. In normal times these are well attended, formal gatherings of around 120 people, held to celebrate the life and works of our Scottish national bard, Robert Burns (1759-1796). The immediate advantage of this meeting was that I didn't have to drive 45 miles to Northwood to attend, also friends from all over the country were joining the meeting.

One lady joined from Switzerland so it was good to speak with those who were only able to attend because we were Zooming. The downside was dining alone in our own homes, eating alone without the convivial conversation of others. It was like that meal on the moon "without atmosphere" and so I abandoned the meal after the first course (haggis, neep and tatties) and joined the Zoom meeting and a four hour long programme of music, dance, song and toasts to the Immortal Memory of the poet by an orator from Muir of Ord, Inverness. The lady singer / violinist was from Glasgow and the piper and Highland dancer were more local in Aylesbury so it took some pretty sound technical skill to coordinate it all, but it was a very good evening.
Burns was described as the poet of humanity and all mankind, who held strong humanitarian values which were reflected in his poetry and won him the admiration of high society in literary circles throughout the world.

His ability to identify with the problems of humankind made him a universally loved poet, with his work translated into more than 40 languages. It is said that Abraham Lincoln was never far removed from a copy of Burns work from which he sought solace during the American Civil War in 1861-65, which for a large part was fought on the issues of slavery.

A preacher I listened to recently on local radio, compared ticking the boxes in the rules of society versus ticking the boxes in the heavenly book. He said whilst we earn that tick in society by attainment / achievement, that is not so in God's book. He explained that God will judge each individual on the person who emerges from all that knowledge. How they use it to the benefit of mankind is what finds favour with our Lord... Intelligence and knowledge are God given and should be used to the Glory of God.

Burns was a shining light of his time, his ongoing popularity 225 years after his death bears testimony to that.

There is no shortage of leading lights in our present time, in the scientific expertise, medical skill and willingness of countless volunteers to assist in this mammoth vaccination programme against the Covid-19 virus; also in our beloved centenarian Captain Sir Tom Moore who used every last ounce of energy to fund raise to help others, a beacon of shining light, hope and encouragement, whose memory will live on long after this pandemic is over. "Tomorrow will be a good day"

The following anonymous little poem written in the Scottish vernacular and most likely written since the millennium, may help to raise a smile. It was circulated in Hamilton churches, my home town, in March 2006.
The Moosie’s Prayer

A pare wee Kirk moose a' forlorn
It's furry coat fair sairly worn
Sank doon upon its bony knees
And prayed - for just a wee bit cheese.

The tears ran doon it's wee thin cheeks
But nane could hear the saddest squeak
That drifted on the cold nicht air
Till whiles it couldnae prae nae mair.

Syne daylicht cam, the Kirk bell rang
The doors swung open wi' a bang
Communion Day had come oan by
Wi' wine and plates o' breed piled high.

The wee moose lay, still as daith
And watched it wi' a baited breath
Then thocht- if I keep awful quate
A bit might just fa' off the plate.

And so it gazed as roond they went
Then just as tho 'twas Heaven sent
Whit landed richt upon its heed
But twa lumps o' communion breed.

The staff o’ life lay on the flair
In answer to the moosie's prayer
While in her pew, wee granny Broon
Had spied the twa bits flappin' doon.

Thought she - that breed looks awful dry
So coupit ower some wine forbye
Wee moosie darted out fair quick
And sooked it up in yae big lick.

It fairly floated up the aisle
Wearin’ sic a boozy smile
Tho breed's no cheese thoucht our boozier
A beggar cannæ be a chooser.

The folk stopped singin' fair aghast
Tae see a drunken moose walk past
A lump o' breed claspèd in its jaws
The ither jammed atween its paws.

The organist fell aff his chair
The meenister could only stare
Tae see this drunken sinful moose
Cavantin’ in his sacred hoose.

At last it staggered up the nave
Then turned - gield sic a happy wave
"I ken noo when its time to pray
I'll dae it on Communion Day."

Love and Peace

Cath Anderson
Continue to follow the rules after vaccination

High numbers of people in the priority groups set out by the Government to receive the vaccine first have now done so. No vaccine is 100% effective and while the vaccines approved for use in the UK have extremely high efficacy rates, we are still learning about to what extent those who are vaccinated can carry and transmit the virus.

To ensure we keep seeing improvements to the situation in the UK, we cannot become complacent. Sticking to the rules even when you are vaccinated means you continue to protect others.

Testing and self-isolating

The rules on testing and self-isolation have not changed. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, you must start to self-isolate immediately and book a test. Self-isolation should happen for ten days from when you first get symptoms and those in your household must also self-isolate. If someone in your household develops symptoms later, they must then self-isolate for a further ten days from this day.

If you have been vaccinated, you must still self-isolate if you are told to, or if someone in your household tests positive.

From struggling with loneliness, juggling work and home schooling and dealing with the enormous changes to our lives, mental wellbeing has been impacted in lots of ways during the pandemic. The Every Mind Matters online tool is a simple way to help you look after your mental health and includes expert advice and practical tips. Information is also available on the Council’s wellbeing pages.

Staying vigilant

We are living through a life-altering event and we are all dealing with new and (in many cases) difficult ways of working, living and educating our children, plus really missing our family and friends. While there is certainly news to be positive about, it doesn’t make the reality of the pandemic any easier and it may become more tempting as we come out of the dark, cold winter months to get out and about and venture further from home. The more we resist this and stick to those stay at home rules the more we will see further improvements.
Weekly COVID-19 Cases in Bedford Borough

In the week up to February 14th there were 312 new cases of Covid-19 reported in Bedford Borough, down from 499 in the previous week. This equates to 180 new cases per 100,000 population compared with 288 new cases per 100,000 population in the previous seven days. The number of deaths from Covid-19 in the Borough, though, increased from 27 in the week to January 29th to 38 in the week to February 5th.

There were 55 new cases in the five Kempston Wards (down from 100 the previous week) and 17 in Wootton (down from 21 the previous week).

Case numbers are continuing to move in the right direction, but deaths remain high.

Help for rough sleepers in Bedford Borough

There continues to be support and shelter for rough sleepers in Bedford Borough.

Outreach teams respond to reports of rough sleepers quickly from early morning to late evening as well as regular patrols of the Borough. Offers of accommodation, on-going support and assistance are made to anyone who is rough sleeping. Accommodation is available for anyone to access 24/7.

Bedford Borough Council is encouraging anyone that is sleeping rough or at risk of becoming homeless and needs support to contact the Council's Housing Options Team at any time on 01234 718058 or if you do not have the means to make a phone call, visit the council’s Customer Service Centre on Horne Lane during office hours. If anyone has concerns about someone they see sleeping rough, please contact the outreach teams at www.streetlink.org.uk

EngAGE Together

Every Monday Gentle Chair Yoga - @ 11.30am and Gentle Chair Dance @ 2.00pm. Also Chair based Cycling @ 11.30am on Fridays

These specific social sessions are open to all who are looking for a very gentle seated exercise session that includes opportunities to interact throughout. Cameras on and lots of drinks break. Take the chance to say hi to others taking part from home and catch up with our wonderful coaches. Any enquiries please email Robert.lindsay@bedford.gov.uk
Memories of Kempston’ seem to have caught lots of people’s imaginations and set you putting your own memories down on to paper. Over the past couple of weeks Richard has compiled memories from Pauline E, Marian F and Rosemary R. This week, I am indebted to Peter Peck for taking us on a journey along Elstow Road as it was from 1931 onwards – first the south side, then the north side. Thank you, Peter, for all this information.

“I was born, or should I say, we were born (being twins) at 43, Elstow Road, Kempston to Mr and Mrs H.G. Peck, on 17th April 1931.”

From the Children’s Home at the corner of Bunyan Road was a small shop and next door to that was Gilbert’s Bakery, owned by the family. [Editor’s note: You can still see the bricked up door and windows of the original shop in the photo below.]

Maurice Gilbert (Catherine’s husband) was Sunday School Secretary at Kempston East. After the bakery, came a bungalow, the home of Mr Greenaway (Sunday School Secretary before Maurice Gilbert). Further along, past a large house, comes Thomas’s home. Thomas’s Garage was along Bedford Road, where the car wash is. Moving along comes another large house where Mr and Mrs Rizega lived. They were Dutch and he was the ‘Boss’ of Cryselco Works on Woburn Road, making lighting equipment. When we had snow, the Rizega family brought out their skis and used Elstow Road as a ski experience.

Then was the bungalow of Mr and Mrs Luddington – he was very involved in Kempston East. They had a housekeeper, Hannah Stanford and she was in the choir at Kempston East. Along from there was another bungalow where Mr Egglestone lived and he was an organist at Kempston East. With him lived his niece, Ena Horton, who was also involved at Kempston East.

Moving on, there was a flower nursery, and next to that is where Mr and Mrs Hobkirk lived – they owned Hobkirk’s Foundry on Ampthill Road.
More About Elstow Road

We are now at the double fronted houses. After that there were fields and a farm belonging to Mr Garner who lived in Spring Road. Also there were two rows of fir trees before the railway which was a good playing area for us boys. [Ed. I assume Peter means the trees were a good playing area and not the railway!].

On my side of Elstow Road [the north side] – again from Bunyan Road was a very tall, old wall until the first house where the Bartholomew family lived – their daughter Elsie was in the Kempston East choir.

There were several houses and a field up to our house (43) and we all attended Kempston East. Mum was in the Bright Hour there, Dad was a Sunday School teacher and Church Secretary. He was in the First World War and was an air raid warden in the Second World War. Four doors along from us was Mr and Mrs Swannell. Mrs Swannell was in the Bright Hour at Kempston East.

Cross Farrer Street and past several houses you come to Mr and Mrs Stanley Ibbett’s house, and then Claude and Gladys Ibbett’s house, both of whom were very involved in Kempston East. Then, on to Mr and Mrs Albert Denton’s house; Albert was also in the choir at Kempston East. From there, you go on to Mr and Mrs Dawson’s House and, finally, the bungalow of Mr and Mrs Chesters.

From here, it was fields (scrub land) until the end of Spring Road where Dr Bowers Asylum was with its lodge house [still there behind the fence on Elstow Road, just before the daffodils at the end of Spring Road.] After that, there was the railway and a few allotments.

Behind Elstow Road and in front of Springfield Avenue was a gravel pit. This was used by the Army Bren Gun Carriers during the war to train in. Also up from the corner of Farrer Street and Springfield Avenue was a big water tank and fire station (where the garages and flats are now).

Peter Peck

Editor’s Note about The Boot pub: I said last week that the Boot pub was where the houses in Ullswater Close are. I was wrong. Thanks to Peter P and Paul P, I now know that it was directly across Bunyan Road from the end of Elstow Road (where the houses on Lunedale Close now are) with its field behind it. The adverts on the previous page are from the British Newspaper Archives and date from the late 1940s and early 1950s.
Going Out.....or Staying In?

As more and more of you get the vaccine you’re perhaps becoming more inclined to leave the house and go outside for a bit of exercise and fresh air. If you do, then don’t forget to take your camera with you. The number of times I go out and see something I’d like to take a picture of and wish that I’d got my camera with me – but then remember that the camera on my phone is pretty good. You may be the same and just ‘snap’ something that you think others would like to see. I’m not going back to having monthly photo themes for you to send in – just, if you think it’s interesting, then others might too so please email it to me at geofftal@btinternet.com.

Last Monday I was walking around Kempston and came across two that I will share with you. Bedford Road Primary School often have a display of art work on their railings. With both the passing of Captain Tom and Valentine’s Day in mind, they have a display of ‘100 Hearts for Captain Tom’. The other was an ‘Afternoon Tea’ that someone in Spring Road had set up in their front garden.
Today (February 21st) is Church Action on Poverty (CAP) Sunday and, to mark this, CAP has produced a thought-provoking collection of prayers, hymns, Bible readings and creative activities to explore the importance of listening more to people on the margins as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic. People like the blind man Bartimaeus, who calls out to Jesus for help in Mark 10: 46-52. All the resources are available for download from the Church Action on Poverty website.

Also worth exploring is a set of Bible studies drawing on events from the Acts of the Apostles. Life Changing Stories: scripture from the margins looks at this account of the early Church as “a story of people on the margins of society who were empowered to go out and change the world.

“We remind ourselves that the original audiences for the Acts of the Apostles’ teaching, and for the Gospels, were often people who were themselves marginalised by poverty, even living under military occupation.”

Former Methodist vice-president Jan Sutch Pickard looks at how Peter and John challenged the religious authorities in Jerusalem – “ordinary people speaking out for change” (Acts 4: 1-20).

Another of the five studies included in this free-to-download resource is written by the Revd Dr Raj Bharat Patta, a minister of the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church of India, currently serving in the Stockport Methodist Circuit in the UK. He re-visits St Paul’s encounter with a Roman tribune in Acts 22: 22-29 and explores the importance of citizenship, “which has been a matter of privilege for some, a matter of struggle for some and a matter of denial for others.”

From the Methodist Church Singing the Faith website

Lord Jesus,
the fabric of our society has been patched many times,
and yet still there are holes,
the places where the poor and the vulnerable struggle to exist.

(from a prayer by Nick Jowatt)
STOP PRESS News from Gideon’s Anti-Aids Foundation - GAAF

Over the past couple of weeks we’ve shared with you news from GAAF and how they’ve been doing. Sadly, we have some less happy news to share.

You will remember that Rev David Williams led our worship by Zoom on Sunday February 7\textsuperscript{th}. He and his wife, Jo keep in close contact with GAAF and sent this update to Stuart and Rosemary – and on to us.

One of the buildings at the GAAF Orphanage in Uganda has been devastated by heavy rainfall they’ve had lately... It's completely collapsed the roof and destabilized the walls...

If you have a few spare quid that you wouldn't mind parting with to help rebuild this building, it would be so appreciated! GAAF house takes in children who are HIV positive and therefore abandoned; children who have lost their families to HIV/Aids and currently Coronavirus. There are 26 children there currently in need of support from those with generous hearts for food and the rebuilding of this shelter.

They are aiming to raise £1500 and have £670 so far.

There’s a donation page also on Facebook called Gideon's Orphanage rebuild fund if anyone would like to make a donation.

However, this is not easy to find and so, to help anyone who would like to donate, Rosemary and Stuart are finding an easier way to do this. We will be sending a donation from the Church’s Charity Fund to this. As this is an organisation that we’ve supported over the past few years it’s also a way of showing our support to Church Action on Poverty Sunday.
Do you have something you would like to say to the rest of us?
Would you like to write the opening letter/article occasionally?

If the answer to those questions is ‘Yes’ then perhaps you would like to join the list of people who write the letter in the newsletter, week by week. Cilla and I have a list of people who we routinely ask but we’re finding that we’re asking them more frequently than before. We would like to add some new names to the list.

Your letter or article doesn’t have to be highly theological but something perhaps based on things that have happened to you recently where maybe you’ve seen God’s hand in them or which have reminded you of a bit of God’s word. Or just about something you’d like to share with the rest of us.

If you would be happy to go on our ‘list’ please email us at geofftal@btinternet.com.

Would you be able to help with our Sunday worship?

We would also like people to volunteer to lead the opening prayers and the prayers of intercession, and to read the Bible passages during our Sunday worship. You don’t need to be a trained worship leader to do this so, if you feel able to do any of these please contact Rosemary at stuart.simms@ntlworld.com.

World Day of Prayer 2021

This year the World Day of Prayer gathering for our area is going to be on YouTube. It has been arranged by the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Flitwick and they would love you to join them. The service is on Friday 5th March at 7.30pm and the link is https://youtu.be/i8yF84sRZIM

The service has been planned by the people of Vanuatu
Southfields Estate Wordsearch

Having had a wordsearch based on the Hillgrounds Estate, I thought you should also have one based on the Southfields Estate. Here it is!!

ALDERNS
ALMONDS
ASH
BEECH
BRIARS
CHANTRY
CHERRY
EATON
ELMS
FIRS
HIGHFIELD
HOLLIES
HORNBEAMS
LARCHES
LAUREL

LILAC
LINKS
LOVAT
MAGNOLIA
MAPLES
MULBERRY
ORCHARD
PINES
PLANES
ROWANS
SILVERBIRCHES
SOUTHFIELDS
SPRUCE
WHITEBEAM
LENT COURSE 2021
This year’s Lent course is being run as a united event with Kempston West, Stewartby United, Willington and Wootton New Life Methodist Churches

We shall be using the daily devotional material from ‘ All We Can’ for LENT 2021. It began on Ash Wednesday and goes up to Easter. Each page of the booklet has a date on it beginning on the 17th.

Ways of Viewing the Material
1. Booklets: cost £3.00 each including P&P (A5 size, 62 pages in colour, order soon) https://www.allwecan.org.uk/product/lent-resources/
2. Downloading at Home: The Weekly readings can be downloaded FREE from the web-site above. They can be printed off or viewed on the web-site.
3. Newsletters: The Weekly Lent daily readings will be sent out as an attachment with the email newsletter. The first week’s material will be sent with this issue.
4. Those of you who receive a printed copy of the newsletter will also have a complimentary copy of the booklet delivered with either your newsletter or CD (if you receive one of these)

Weekly Study Groups
These will be held on Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am (join from 10.15am) and Wednesday evenings at 7.45pm (join from 7.30pm) beginning on February 24th. Please feel free to join either group. There will be folk from all the churches in each group. The morning groups will be led by Rev Michael Giles and the evening groups by David Goodson from Wootton New Life Church.

The Zoom login details and this week’s daily readings will be sent with Richard’s covering emails.

‘Woven’ – a Lent Course from the London District of the Methodist Church
If you would like to follow a second Lent course in addition to the one above you can download the material of one assembled by Rev Michaela Youngson, Chair of the London District. Click on www.methodistlondon.org.uk/lentcourse2021 and then click the ‘Download’ button under ‘How to get your copy’. 
Please remember in your prayers:
- Natalie M and her daughter Jackie slowly improving from Covid-19 (Natalie was able to join our Zoom service last Sunday)
- Phyllis C in St Johns, Moggerhanger

**Wesley Guild**

Wesley Guild re-opened last Monday when we met together on Zoom. Over twenty members joined the meeting in this way and we were able to not only follow Geoff’s devotional on the theme of ‘Love’ (it was the day after Valentine’s Day) but also have a good chat before and after – you had to make your own tea and coffee, though!

Further meetings are planned, roughly at fortnightly intervals for the next couple of months:

Monday 1\textsuperscript{st} March – Mediterranean Diet - Geoff Talbot  
Monday 15\textsuperscript{th} March – Rev. Michael Giles  
Monday 29\textsuperscript{th} March – Watch this space.  
Monday 12\textsuperscript{th} April – Leprosy Mission – Helen Walton  
Monday 26\textsuperscript{th} April - AGM

The Zoom login information will be sent by Roger to Guild members who are ‘online’ but we welcome anyone to join our meetings whether members of Kempston East’s Guild or not. For security reasons we are unable to print the login information in the newsletter but if you would like to join and have not received the login link please email Roger at roger.skipper@btinternet.com or Geoff at geofftal@btinternet.com.
Once again we will meet this week by Zoom and, this Sunday, our service will be led by Jenny Endersby. Jenny is a local preacher ‘on trial’ and is from Sandy Methodist Church. Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Lent and there will be two short breakout sessions within the service to discuss two questions (below) - but you don’t have to have an answer or necessarily contribute as Jenny will be making suggestions in the service and other people will have ideas.

Breakout session 1:
“What can we give up or take up for Lent to bring us closer to God?”

Breakout session 2:
“How can you or have you feasted or celebrated despite lockdown restrictions?”

The service will, again, be held through the medium of Zoom. We hope that as many of you as feel able to will join us on Zoom. If you haven’t done it before, it really is quite easy and you can even join in to listen by dialling in from your home phone – you don’t even need a computer, tablet or smartphone! Just follow the login instructions in Richard’s covering email.

As before, Dom will put a recording of the service on the church website. This does take a bit of time to do, so please allow for that and, perhaps, wait until Sunday evening to connect in to that. I will again produce an audio version on CD for those of you who are unable to get to the service in any other way. If you haven’t already been getting one of these and would like one, please do contact me (Geoff Talbot) and I will arrange one.

Songs of Praise will be on BBC1 at 1.15pm when Katherine Jenkins visits L’Abri fellowship in Hampshire to explore Christian faith and hospitality. With music from Laura Wright and the Choir of Royal Holloway.

Forthcoming Services from Kempston East

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday February 28th</td>
<td>Chris Fox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday March 7th</td>
<td>Rev Michael Giles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday March 14th</td>
<td>Anne Foley</td>
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Until restrictions are eased and we can meet again in person, these services will be held on Zoom.
This short act of worship has been prepared for you so you can spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

We come before you Almighty God, ever mindful that you have called us as your own. Lead us in your truth and teach us your paths of steadfast love and righteousness. Amen.

Hymn: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah Singing the Faith 465

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5j48TLIRb4Q

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand: Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore; feed me now and evermore.

Open thou the crystal fountain whence the healing stream shall flow; let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through: strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan bid my anxious fears subside; death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side: songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)

Let us pray together

O Lord we lift up our hearts and minds and bless your holy name. For you have created all things and your glory is seen in the heavens and on the earth. Thank you for your bountiful provision and your love that goes before us. May this time of Lent enable us to walk humbly and be mindful of your covenant with us.
Forgive us Lord for the words said and deeds done that have been selfish, inconsiderate, or hurtful to others. We thank you for your mercies that are new to us each day and that wash us clean. In Jesus Name. Amen

Today’s Reading from the Old Testament: Genesis 9:8-17

Today’s Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Time to Reflect.

Here we are at the beginning of a new Church season in Lent 1. There are two readings for today. The Gospel passage should be familiar to folk as portions of it have already featured twice in this year’s lectionary and the Genesis passage which I find particularly applicable to our present situation worldwide.

Noah and his family have been restricted to an Ark for 378 days, not just 40 days, which is so similar to how long this Pandemic has been making our lives difficult. When Noah disembarks and makes sacrifices to God, then God promises to establish a covenant which has the rainbow as a sign.

What will you sacrifice to God to open a way for God to bless you? Our hands are full of many different things that we need to let go of before we can take up new things.

Just as God wiped the earth clean of all wickedness by way of the flood waters so too does the Baptism of repentance wash us clean.

The wilderness, like Lent is also a time for reflection, fasting and spending time in prayer as we prepare for what God is going to do in us and through us.

What are the “struggles” that you have faced in this last year? What path will you take in the Lenten season ahead?

Take a time to sit quietly.

A time of prayer

Lord God, we pray for those who find themselves in restricted spaces and unexpected places.

We pray for places affected by climate change, areas where water is scarce and crops fail, places where flooding is affecting people’s homes.

We pray for those who are homeless and have lost everything through earthquake or fire.

We pray for those who wait for medical results, for those who are ill in hospital or at home.

For those who have lost their jobs and those who await news about benefits.
We pray for our healthcare workers, nurses and doctors, essential service workers, teachers and police.

For our children, whose education has been so badly affected, and parents who are juggling time constraints.

For those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

For Religious leaders and funeral parlours who minister to the bereaved.

For those who are working on the Vaccine rollout, scientists, government leaders, economists, and medical aid associations.

Breathe new life into your people and all circumstances as we approach Easter. May we always know your presence with us. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father ......

Hymn: All my hope on God is founded

Singing the Faith 455

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DohxO6ytsaU

All my hope on God is founded; he doth still my trust renew. Me through change and chance he guideth, only good and only true. God unknown, he alone calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory, sword and crown betray our trust; what with care and toil we fashion, tower and temple, fall to dust. But God's power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth, deep his wisdom passing thought; splendour, light, and life attend him, beauty springeth out of nought. Evermore from his store new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal sacrifice of praise be done, high above all praises praising for the gift of Christ his Son. Christ doth call one and all ye who follow shall not fall.

Robert Bridges (1844-1930) (alt.)

based on Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

A prayer of blessing

May Almighty God, who has called us by His grace, bless and keep us by confirming and strengthening us through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit to be His instruments of peace in the world. Amen.

Original Materials by Fiona Calverey

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191 and CCLI 5467
If you have any prayer requests, thanks, how you’re passing the time, feelgood items and, indeed, any other items and news that you would like to go into this newsletter then please email these to geoftal@btinternet.com, ideally by Thursday each week. As you can see, unlike the printed newsletter, there’s no restriction on space and we can even slot last minute things in up till Friday evening.

If you know of someone who would like to receive this emailed newsletter could you please send their email address to richard.ward4@btinternet.com. Equally, if you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please let Richard Ward know.

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**Honey Hills**

A few weeks ago, Richard asked a question about the origin of ‘Honey Hills’ in the Queens Park area of Bedford. As a follow-up to this Sue F has sent in the following:

“I have spoken to Jim Hull about it, just out of interest. Jim is a Queenspark resident and his wife Pauline comes from Kempston. There isn’t much they don’t know between them. Jim has made a few phone calls and he suggests that:-

1) Centuries ago, the Danish Honic tribe came up river and the name originates from them.
2) Years ago, the area was very hilly and extremely rugged and sticky (honey)
3) There used to be a farm in the area called Honey Hill Farm which kept many, many bees

I guess we will never know the truth.”

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**Paraprosdokians**

Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of the sentence is unexpected – for example:

- Where there’s a will, I want to be in it
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak
- If I agreed with you, we’d both be wrong
- War does not determine who is right – only who is left
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad

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Next week’s poster from Richard