



Issue 26 – Sunday 13 September 2020

St PETER'S POST
(incorporating The METHODIST MERCURY)



NEWS



**Thought
for the week**



The future

The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.

Abraham Lincoln

Thank you Paul

Village Hall News

Great News, WE ARE COVID READY!!



Thanks to Heather, Leon, Ray and others in the team, all the requirements to make the Hall Covid secure have been met and we are opening for business on **Monday September 21st**. This has been a complicated task, but we are sure that groups who want to take that next step can do so with confidence.

Since March 2020 we have been in touch with other Village Halls in Hertfordshire via the CDA (Community Development Action – Hertfordshire's Rural Community Charity). This valuable contact has given us a lot of useful information and support in getting our hall Covid Secure.

Of course, the latest news means that only 6 people can meet in a group, but as the hall is Covid Secure, more than one group of 6 will be able to use the hall at one time. We hope that groups will work with this and make their own arrangements to follow the latest government guidance.

The Village Hall Market Stall which is due to take place on **Thursday October 1st** may have to be postponed in the light of this new advice. I know that some people love to have that home-made cake or freshly baked sausage rolls and we would like to continue to provide some service while we cannot meet in a group. If you would like to place an order for a cake, some scones, shortbread, flapjacks or other favourite snack I will try to match up those who bake and those who want to buy. Just give me a ring on 869348 or e-mail jennycobb@btopenworld.com.



We will, as usual, ask for a donation to the Village Hall to help to keep us going during this difficult time. I hope that many of our bakers will be happy to do this but there is no obligation.

Meanwhile keep safe and enjoy our lovely Village of Benington.

Thank you Jenny

To give some indication of the scale of the endeavour...



If you zoom into the centre right photo you can see one of our security team happily waving.

The plans are being taken care of tenderly. They get sun and water and are spending happy times with other plant friends.

Thank you Heather

Fancy a snooze..?



Double bed and mattress offered – good, clean condition. Would need to collect from 62 Wildwood Lane Stevenage SG1 1TB
Tel: 226254

Thank you Brenda

The News Sheet Needs You!!

Please feel free to submit any news you think will be of interest to our village community to the Parish Office (ubbw@hotmail.co.uk).

Agatha Christie...sort of.

Ten little Christians standing in a line, One disliked the minister, then there were nine.

Nine little Christians stayed up very late, One couldn't leave his bed, then there were eight.

Eight little Christians on their way to heaven, One took the worldly route, then there were seven.

Seven little Christians chirping like chicks, One didn't like the music, then there were six.

Six little Christians seemed very much alive, One of them lost interest, then there were five.

Five little Christians asking for more,

One stopped to rest awhile, then there were four.

Four little Christians each busy as a bee, One got his feelings hurt, then there were three.

Three little Christians wondering what to do, One couldn't have his way, then there were two.

Two little Christians saw something was wrong, Each blamed the other, then there was one.

One locked down Christian, feeling rather blue,

Thought she'd give her friend a ring, then there were two.

Two caring Christians, praying for next door,

Checked on how their neighbours were, then there were four.

Four thankful Christians, clapping at the gate,

Got to know more in their street, then there were eight.

Eight growing Christians, able to meet once more,

Doubling their number seven more times – 1024!

Linking up with friends at home, worshipping with Zoom,

Bringing good news out of bad, size of church went boom!

In times when many lose their way his words ring like a bell,

“Where two or three meet in my name, I'm there – all will be well!”



Thank you Brenda



St Peter's church open every Thursday 9.30 to 11.00am

We are pleased to be able to open St Peter's Church for private prayer each
**Thursday morning, 9:30 to 11 a.m. This will continue until further
notice.**

Hand sanitiser is in place at both doors and a one-way system is in place.

BENINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Service on Sunday 13 September at 10.30am

Our service will be led by a Local Arrangement

The chapel has been made safe in accordance with the
Methodist Church guidelines

Future services will be announced on a weekly basis

Everyone is welcome

Accounts Assistant

20 hours per week

We are looking for someone to join our
small, friendly team at the Diocesan Office in
St Albans.

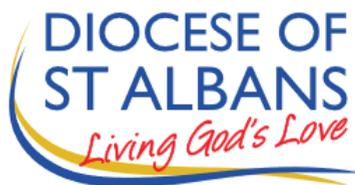
Responsibilities include data input, processing receipts and payments,
nominal ledger posting and other clerical duties. Computer literacy, an
eye for detail and ability to work to deadlines essential.

Salary £24,916 – 28,307 pro rata plus generous pension.

Further details are available at:

www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/other-vacancies

Closing date: 12 noon – 21st September 2020





Children's corner

Hi everyone

Hope you are all settling back into school and enjoying being with all your friends and learning lots of new things. Do you have dreams? Do you remember what you dream? Sometimes I do. The other night I dreamt I was fielding in a cricket match. I ran to get the ball and threw it at the stumps to get the batsman out and I missed!! Then I woke up. Today's story is about a dream but this dream had a special meaning and with God's help Joseph knew what it was.

BACK TO SCHOOL JOKE: What did the pencil sharpener say to the pencil?
Stop going round in circles and get to the point!



And now for this week's episode of Joseph's Story



When we left Joseph last week he was in prison in Egypt. He wasn't there because he had done anything wrong. He was there because someone had told lies about him. While he was in the prison Joseph had made friends with some of the other prisoners. One of them had been the wine taster for Pharaoh. Pharaoh was the ruler of

Egypt. One night the wine taster had a dream. He dreamt that he was picking grapes and squeezing them into Pharaoh's cup. Then he dreamt he put the cup into Pharaoh's hand. "What do you think my dream means, Joseph?" he asked. Joseph prayed for God's help and then he knew the answer. "It means that you will soon be Pharaoh's wine taster again". The man was very pleased. I guess he had a big smile on his face! "Don't forget about me when you are free", Joseph said. "Help me to get out of prison too". A few days later the wine taster's dream came true. He got out of the prison and he became Pharaoh's wine taster again. But guess what he forgot all about Joseph! Poor Joseph must have been feeling really fed up, but God still had a plan for his life. So did he eventually get out of the prison? Find out next week.

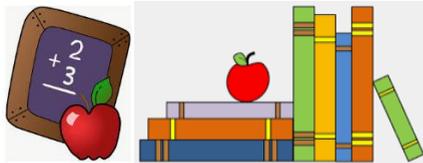




SOMETHING TO DO If you aren't too busy with homework you might like to colour this picture of Joseph and the wine taster in prison.

Or maybe you could draw a picture about a dream you have had. Have a good week.
Anne

Thank you Anne



School News



We finally welcomed back our whole school today. It was so lovely to see so many happy faces. The general feel was of positivity and enthusiasm for a new school year. We have opted for a longer rolling start and finish to make

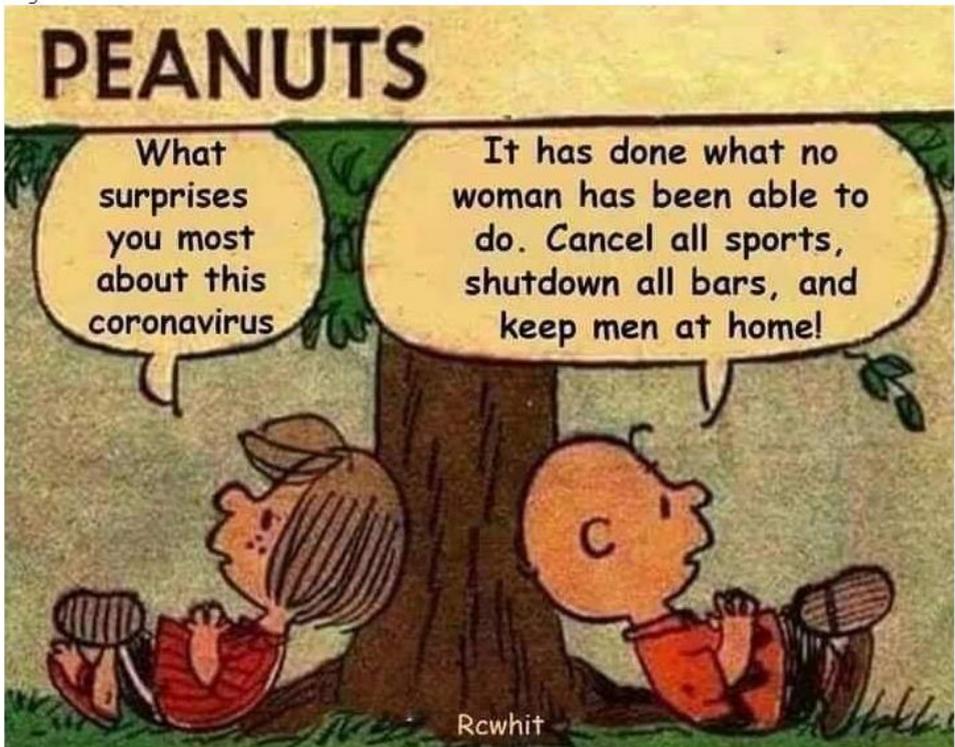
it easier for parents. This made drop off feel more relaxed and it was good to catch up with parents albeit from a distance.

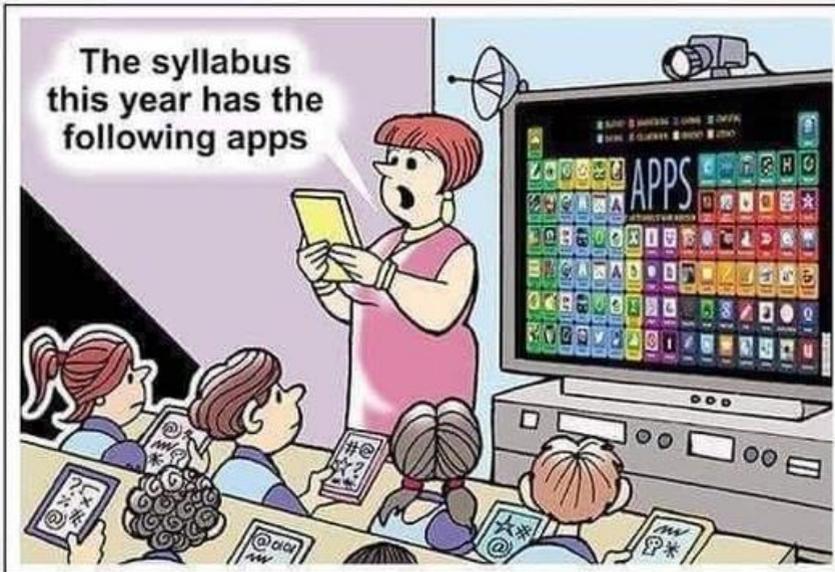
The children quickly got used to the new bubble approach and different break and lunch times. Normally we would have started the day with an assembly, so I went in to say good morning to each class in turn. Hearing each class parrot the normal, "Good morning Mrs Tyler" made me smile.

We had a table of uniform at the village coffee morning today and we hope for this to be a weekly addition. I walked down with Mrs Presland and enjoyed catching up with some of the village residents. I'm hoping to continue forging more links between the school and the village as the term progresses.

Thank you Anja

Funnies





The Times of India

Opp edit page





Exam questions...and answers!?

What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?

He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for Bicycles.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

Two polar bears
~~Three~~ Four seals

Hymns, Readings and Prayers

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER: TRINITY 14

Hymn for the week



Jennifer Newton has offered this hymn for this coming Sunday. It's number is 314 from Hymns Old and New:

Lord of beauty, thine the splendour

Jennifer says:

As a result of the strange - and unwelcome - circumstances in which we have found ourselves this summer we have had more opportunities than usual to notice and appreciate the wonders of nature all around us. This hymn is full of praise to God for all this beauty, from the stars and planets in the heavens down to the earth and waters below. It also reminds us to give thanks to God as the creator, and render him the glory due. I feel that the tune Regent Square adds to the dignity of the words.

If you would like to listen and maybe sing along, just click on the blue link below or copy and paste it into your internet browser (eg Google).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCnDRGv_dRI&list=UU6s6aqVw_p9BIQ6g5kPMDSP3g&index=30

Thank you Jennifer



Reading for the week



Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35

How do we go about actually forgiving those who have hurt us?

I want to suggest five simple steps to forgiveness.

1. We understand God's forgiveness.

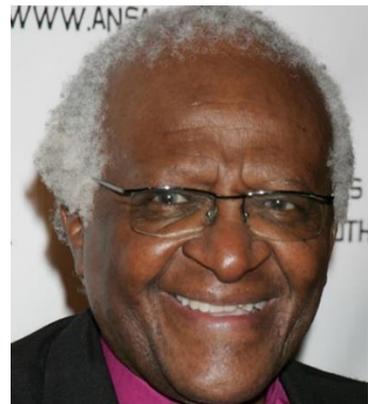
God's forgiveness is not like human forgiveness. It is complete: it is not flawed, it is not broken but is for everyone. God forgives an infinite number of times. The 70x7 expression that Jesus used was symbolic for infinity. Christians are called to forgive an infinite number of times because that is the number of times we are forgiven by God. Do you know you are completely forgiven? For all you have ever done and all you will ever do. That is the good news of Jesus. As we begin to grasp that infinite forgiveness, it helps us to forgive.

2. We need to be honest.

I am convinced that Jesus understands completely how difficult forgiveness is, and I think this parable is reminding us how easy it is to be like the unmerciful servant. We do not want to forgive the person who has hurt us. The pain is too deep, it's all too much. God understands that. He doesn't want us to falsely say, 'Oh yes I forgive' when we really don't mean it, just because we feel like we have to. We need to be honest.

3. We choose to forgive.

Forgiveness is not a warm, slushy feeling of loving-kindness that just magically sweeps over us; it is an active choice. The man in Jesus' parable had a choice. He could show mercy or he could demand money from the person that owed him. He chose not to forgive. To really forgive, we need to recognise that it is our own choice. The ruler didn't force this man's hand once he had been forgiven, forgiveness was still the servant's choice.



Desmond Tutu says: “We choose forgiveness because it is how we find freedom and keep from remaining trapped in an endless loop of telling our stories and naming our hurts. It is how we move from victim to hero.

4. We bring it to Jesus.

The process of forgiveness is much easier when we have Jesus himself, who on the cross said ‘Father forgive them for they know not what they do’ helping us and journeying with us. I believe as we bring our need to forgive to Jesus, the Spirit helps us to change our heart. Forgiveness is the active decision to let Jesus be the judge, to let Jesus heal us.



I love the story of **Corrie Ten Boon** who was an incredible woman who hid Jews in her home in WW2 and was eventually arrested and placed in a concentration camp. Only she survived, both her sister and her father died in the concentration camp and she spent the rest of her life going around telling people about the love of Jesus. This is part of her story. “It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former SS man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing centre at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. “How grateful I am for your

message Fräulein”, he said “To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!” His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side. Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? “Lord Jesus”, I prayed, “forgive me and help me to forgive him”. I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. “Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your Forgiveness.” As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me. And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world’s healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.”

5. We repeat and repeat and repeat

I think there was a reason Jesus says to Peter seven times seventy, because he knew the reality of forgiveness is far harder than we can imagine. He knew this would be a process that could take a long time and he is gracious, he is kind, he journeys with us in our own journeys to forgiveness and he never leaves us on the way.

Laurie Hawkins



Prayers for the week

COLLECT

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Please join us in saying the Collect at
11.00 am on Sunday morning wherever you are.**

on Sunday at 11

I know that many say the Collect at 11am on a Sunday in the knowledge that their friends are doing the same thing. You may like to join me on Sunday for an informal Zoom meeting to sing Barbara's hymn, hear the reading and say the prayers together.

The information for this meeting is:

Topic: Sunday at 11

Time: Sept 13 2020 11:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus04web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F79041101606%3Fpwd%3DeTltbDI5b2FCWUIzRjZRbFY3NUVNUT09&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd0d45c3a44a74a40d8a008d855951e2e%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637353446221889401&sdata=l00OAuF0mFw9J5o%2BP2GjIHEMMmbIkXajyZ2Hkn12SM%3D&:reserved=0>

Meeting ID: 790 4110 1606

Password: 3BjSdf



If you need some help getting started with useful YouTube video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsy2Ph6kSf8&list=PLKpRxBfeD1kEM_I1lId3N_XI77fKDzSXe

Prayers

Found in the clothing of a dead child at Ravensbruck concentration camp

Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will. But, do not remember all of the suffering they have inflicted upon us: instead remember the fruits we have borne because of this suffering - our fellowship, our loyalty to one another, our humility, our courage, our generosity, the greatness of heart that has grown from this trouble. When our persecutors come to be judged by you, let all of these fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness. **Amen.**

A prayer by Amnesty International

Lord Jesus, you experienced in person torture and death as a prisoner of conscience. You were beaten and flogged and sentenced to an agonizing death though you had done no wrong. Be now with prisoners of conscience throughout the world. Be with them in their fear and loneliness, in the agony of physical and mental torture, and in the face of execution and death. Stretch out your hands in power to break their chains. Be merciful to the oppressor and the torturer and place a new heart within them. Forgive all injustice in our lives and transform us to be instruments of your peace, for by your wounds we are healed.

Amen

A prayer from Colossians 3.12-14 (Good News Bible, adapted)

You have called us, O God, to be your people. You have loved us and chosen us for your own. Clothe us with your compassion, your kindness, your humility, your gentleness and your patience. Help us forgive one another as you have forgiven us. And bind us all together in the perfect unity of your love. **Amen**

The grace

of our Lord, Jesus Christ, And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all, evermore. **Amen**

Laurie Hawkins

A prayer during vacancy

God our Father, at this time of change, send your Holy Spirit to fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer, that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYER REQUESTS

Named requests for prayer will be included on the notice sheet for at least one month. If you would like a name to be included for our intercessions, please contact the Parish Office ubbw@hotmail.co.uk or 07407 630159 or Maggie Hawkins (359500) for Walkern or Rita Plumb (869731) for Benington. (Names from the prayer board in St Mary's Church will also be included in the intercessions in that church.) Prayer is regularly offered for all the sick and needy in our community.

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Those who live in our villages: This week we pray for all who live in Moors Ley, Walkern and Town Lane, Benington.

We pray for those in our parishes or friends and family members who are housebound, unwell, receiving treatment or recovering from operations:
Bruce Standing, Colin Daly, Barbara and Eleanor Waldock.

We also remember those who have died and their families and friends, especially Ilse Rashbrook, Alison Bulmer and Iain Nicholson.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BENINGTON & WALKERN: CONTACT NUMBERS

MEMBERS OF ECUMENICAL MINISTRY TEAM

Methodist: Revd Malcolm Peacock (01462 646562), Mr Brian Burgess (237748),
Mrs Brenda Davies (227293);

URC: Revd John Walker (01462-895481), Mrs Mary Miller (861289),
Mrs Olga Ginn (861754);

Roman Catholic: Mrs Rita Healy (861098);

St Peter and St Mary: Revd Norman Plumb (869731),
Mr Paul Cobb, *Reader* (869348), Mr Laurie Hawkins, *Reader* (359500),
Mr Steve Mason, *Reader* (360847),
Mrs Jenny Cobb (869348), Mrs Rita Plumb (869731).

TO ARRANGE BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS, CONTACT:

Church clergy: United Reformed Church: Revd John Walker (01462 895481)

Benington Methodist Church: Revd Malcolm Peacock (01462 646562)

St Mary's and St Peter's: Benefice Administrator ubbw@hotmail.co.uk

FOR OTHER PASTORAL HELP, CONTACT:

Benington Pastoral visiting team c/o Mrs Rita Plumb (869731)

Walkern Pastoral visiting team c/o Mrs Maggie Hawkins (359500)

St Peter's, Benington Churchwardens:

Mrs Christine Brown (869468) & Mrs Clare Wood (869674)

St Mary's, Walkern Churchwardens:

Mrs Beverley Harlow (225365) & Mrs Maggie Hawkins (359500)

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ENQUIRIES, CONTACT:

Benington Methodist Steward: Mr Brian Burgess (237748)

Walkern URC Secretary: Mrs Olga Ginn (861754)

Anglican Benefice Administrator: Heather Ferguson (07407 630159):

Tuesdays 8.00am–11.00am & Thursdays 2.00pm–5.00pm or ubbw@hotmail.co.uk