

Benefice of Great Hanwood, Longden and Annscroft
with Pulverbatch
May 2020
DAY 7



And surrounded as we are by such beauty in the woods—we should be full of joy and gladness

This picture was taken by Angela Jones..



Christian Aid Week 2020 – May 10 – 17th

It is all change for Christian Aid Week this year. Because of the social distancing regulations and the need to keep older people as safe as we can we will not be able to do our normal house-to-house collection. It will be a break in the tradition of these parishes established over many, many years.

Christian Aid too has changed its practice. Originally this year's campaign was to be centred on climate change. It would have informed us about Christian Aid projects working with partners in Kenya and the Philippines.



A community learns about hand washing in Sierra Leone.

Once the coronavirus pandemic was rife throughout the world, Christian Aid switched its focus for the week to that of supporting the poorest of countries in providing basic hygiene facilities. Over the past weeks we have got used to social distancing and being schooled in washing hands properly and frequently. The latter is possible for us because we have copious supplies of running water. In your mind's eye transport yourself to a crowded refugee

camp and think how you would attempt social distancing. Or how you would wash hands frequently when the nearest running water is in a polluted stream hundreds of yards away (at least) and you have to carry the water home in old oil drums. The money we donate this year will go to schemes to teach hand-washing in difficult circumstances, providing schemes for fresh clean water.

This year our Christian Aid Week will begin with a special service – this year through Zoom rather than us meeting in the 'flesh'. It will enable us to pray with all our neighbours who live in the most difficult of circumstances. We will not be able to send out collectors to raise funds from the houses of the district. But we will be able to donate on line by contacting caweek.org/payin. We encourage as many of you as possible to give as generously as possible to support this essential work. It really is as simple as going to caweek.org/payin.



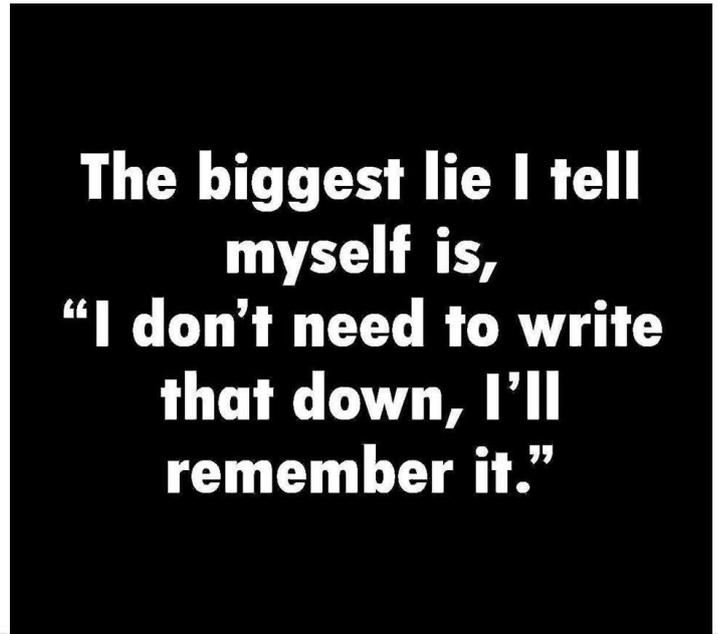
Children gather in a crowded refugee camp in Bangladesh.

On Sunday we will be using the prayer below. We ask that you might use it when you receive this magazine copy and throughout Christian Aid Week.

**May the presence of the Creator refresh you,
may the comfort of the Son renew you,
may the inspiration of the Spirit restore you
to be love in action, even from a distance,
in our neighbourhoods, near and far,
this day and for evermore. Amen**

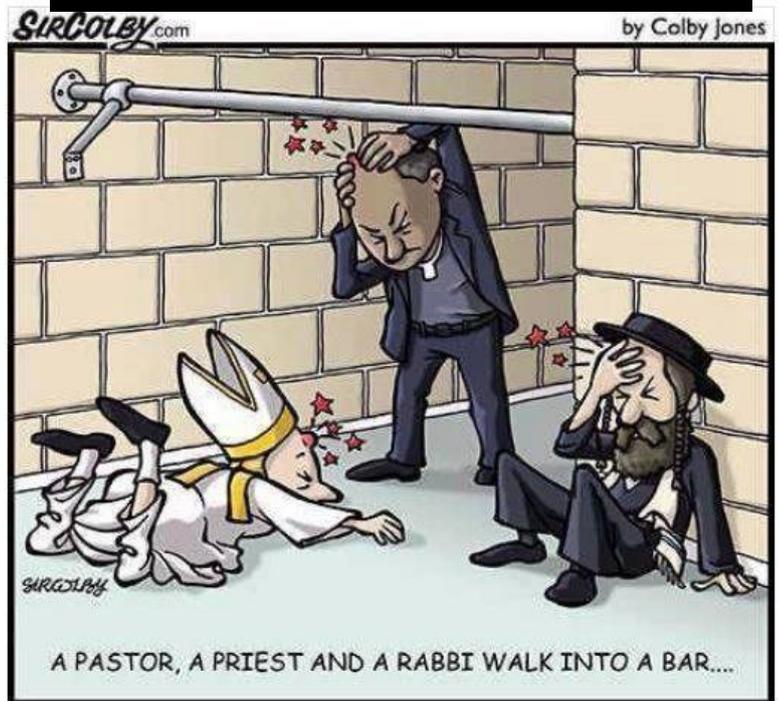
May God bless your generosity,
Graham & Sandra

And to help you smile—from Russell Smith and parish pump



Take me out

An elderly single woman died last month. She requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she explained: “They wouldn’t take me out while I was alive, so I don’t want them to take me out when I’m dead.”



What are angels like?

Try asking school children that question, and you'll get some imaginative replies! Like these...

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. - Sara, aged 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and His Son, who's a very good carpenter. - Jared, aged 8

All angels are girls because they have to wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. - Anthony, aged 9

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth. - Kate, aged 9

This has been sent in by Paul Taylor and he said it might be useful when walking the lanes as a part of our daily exercise.

A guide to flowers along country lanes in May time Hedgerows, Hedgebanks and Verges

As I write this guide, very many lovely blooms are already appearing in April and some may still be flowering by the time you read this. Those precious strolls along Slanes for those of us lucky to be living in the country in these strange times, offer wonderful opportunities for learning and for remembering those flowers we may have forgotten.



**Lady's-smock/
Cuckooflower**
Four rose-pink
to white
(notched)
petals. Leaves
are divided.
Can grow to
60cm. Cabbage
family. Verges
and meadows.



Greater Stitchwort Flowers are
forked and on slender stems. Five,
white, divided petals (2-3cm diam.).
Leaves dark green and pointed.
Campion family. Hedgebanks



Common Dog-violet Petals with 'Bugs Bunny
ears' are blue-violet (Sweet Violets are often
white). The 'spur' at the back is curved, creamy
and notched. Violet family. Hedgebanks, dry
grassland and verges.



Dog's Mercury
'Dog' refers to a
plant which is
common, poisonous
or of little use. This
one, although a
lovely sign of
spring's arrival is
poisonous. Male
(above left) and
female flowers
(below) with hairy
spheres) on
separate plants.
Leaves 3-8 cm long
and toothed. Spurge
family. Hedgerows,
woods and verges.



Goldilocks A member of the
buttercup family with small,
golden-yellow flowers often with
'missing' petals. The leaves are
divided, like fingers. Found in
woodlands and on shady verges.



This is the last of this E-magazine for May. Many thanks are due to Russell Smith who has found most of the cartoons and some of the 'funnies' included in these issues. If you would like to do the same in June please let Pat or Sandra know and all suggestions for this will be gratefully received