

LONGDEN and ANNSCROFT with PULVERBATCH-
Benefice of Great Hanwood, Longden and Annscroft
with Pulverbatch
May 2020

As you saw yesterday instead of a magazine in this month of May there will be an e-mimi magazine on a daily basis for the first week. It is aiming to help in these strange times both by giving you things to think on and most importantly to bring you reasons to smile. Please share anything you wish with your friends and neighbours perhaps over the fence when both drinking a cup of tea. Please send any material, more thoughts, prayers, or items for fun to Sandra or Pat as usual.

DAY TWO



Thought for May.

I am not sure where we will all be by the time you read this, but it is now Day 7 of Lockdown, thanks to the virus.

Being quite sociable, I felt mutinous to start with, when they were just “shielding” the elderly. ‘Typical’ I thought, locking away those they consider to have no use or responsibilities. ‘Huh,’ I thought, ‘that’s what THEY think’ But, as with most things, after the gnashing of teeth, I accepted the inevitable, which quickly became the norm for everyone else as well.

Gradually, certain truths emerged from this unprecedented situation; the first one being that I had absolutely no cause for complaint, when I had beautiful scenery to look out on, a spacious home, a garden to relax or work in and good neighbours.

The sun shone, and we all emerged from the depths of a gloomy, flooded, stormy winter. The primroses and celandine flourished in the hedgerows, the birds chorused our morning alarm, the sky flushed pink every night over the Long Mynd and all seemed deceptively serene, normal, and lovely. Spring and God’s earth was unaware of any Lockdown.

However, on clicking the television on to access the news, the terrible truth was revealed. Not only did it seem surreal but, dare I suggest...Apocalyptic?

Consider the fires in Australia, the floods in Yorkshire, the locusts in Africa. And what about our self-made evils: plastic in the oceans, industrial pollution, our inhuman disregard for immigrants amassing at closed borders, rejected, hungry, homeless, unsafe, abandoned or being allowed to drown with no rescue attempted.

We have a great deal upon which to reflect and now, we have the time in which to do it. There is silence. There is peace. They come at a price. For there is also fear, loss of life and liberty, grief, anxiety, panic.

Now, more than ever, we are encouraged to live life in the moment, for there are no hopes or expectations, no plans, schedules or projects, other than the most basic--to survive. Now, we should make fruitful use of this time. We have no excuses. We must cherish our family and our friendships; reassess our priorities; make amends; atone. Afterwards, maybe we will return willingly to that which used to exist and which is already making a resurgence: compassion; care for our elderly, frail or sick; a voluntary giving of ourselves and our time; personal responsibility. Already, we begin to see hotels being commandeered for the homeless and shoppers volunteering to help the friendless; money donated for medical essentials; talents turned to national service. Once again, the great British sense of community is making a comeback. Once again, we are all equal in our needs.

The Good we are seeing is hopefully what our God expects of us:

spending quality time with our children, teaching them what matters and taking up our parental duties.

(Now, maybe teachers, and nurses, ambulance drivers and medics will be appreciated!)

Enjoying the simple pleasures of home and garden, forgetting money and fame.

Appreciating the beauty of Nature and feeding our spirituality.

Not planning or expecting, but living for the day; Carpe Diem and all that.

Recognising our equal status and that we are interdependent, with the same needs.

Maintaining this newly rekindled sense of community and our appreciation of each other.

And recognising that there is a Power greater than Mankind, which can bring humans to their knees

Jo Fullwood.

And to bring a smile

Oh no!!

The lock down has affected local businesses:

Bra manufacturers have gone bust.

Submersible makers have gone under.

Food blender companies have gone into liquidation

Dog kennels have called in the retrievers.

The origami paper makers have folded.

The Heinz factory has been canned. They couldn't ketchup with orders.

Tarmac laying companies have reached the end of the road.

The bakery has run out of dough.

The clock maker has wound down and the owner gone cuckoo.

The Chinese has been taken away.

The shoe shop owner has put his foot down, and given his staff the boot.

The laundrette has been taken to the cleaners.

Baby suppliers have spat the dummy.

The dentist is looking down in the mouth.

The plumbers have gone down the tubes.

Opticians are on the blink.

The broadcasting companies have called in the receivers.

As sent in by **Rev Ian Ross**

Or to put it another way - as sent in by **Russell Smith-**

And finally...It is with great sadness that I have to mention the loss of a few local businesses.

A local Bra Shop has gone bust.

A Mining Company has gone under.

A manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation.

A Dog Kennels has had to call in the retrievers.

An origami book company has folded.

An Ariel Installation company has called in the receivers

A Key Company has gone into lockdown.

A Watchsmith has wound down and called time.

An Iceland store has had its assets frozen.

A Shoe Factory has been soled and employees given the boot.

The Heinz factory has been canned as they couldn't ketchup with orders.

The tarmac company has reached the end of the road.

The bread company has run out of dough.

The laundrette has been taken to the cleaners.

And finally the AA Recovery Service are on their way to a breakdown.

How grandchildren view their grandparents

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 72. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

.A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last, she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

NEWS FROM LONGDEN

Clapping for the NHS

Every Thursday evening, just before 8pm, doors open and residents can be seen lining each side of the main road passing through the village, waving to each other as they do so. On the stroke of 8pm the noise swells as the clapping begins, saucepans 'clang', hooters sound and people shout and cheer: all in support of, and to show how much we care about our fantastic NHS staff and other carers.

Village shop/Post Office

How lucky we are to have such a fantastic shop in the village providing a wide variety of local produce and general goods!

Run by Duncan and Sarah, and their dedicated staff, the shop is not only open daily but also provides an online ordering/delivery service for the local community. This is proving invaluable during the Covid 19 crisis for those in 'Lockdown' and unable to go out and about. Duncan and Sarah are presently working very long hours each day to fulfil these needs for the community and for this we are all extremely grateful.

A huge 'Thank you, both' from us all!

Sent in by Jenny Davies

And finally—for today a prayer from Christian Aid written especially for these unprecedented times.

**God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation,
Apart from loved ones, distant from friends,
away from neighbours
we thank you that there is nothing in all of creation,
not even corona virus that can separate us from your love.
And may your love that never fails continue to be shared
through the kindness of strangers,
looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far,
all recognising our shared vulnerability.
Each of us grateful for every breath
and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life.
Amen**

This is just a reminder that if you wish to join in with the zoom services on Sundays or receive Graham's regular readings and prayers by e-mail please ring him on 861003