

HARDWICK DEANERY NEWS

AUTUMN 2020



Bishop Libby writes... 2020 Vision and strategic planning

Our vision, I think, is a given: 'seek first the Kingdom of God'. Our prayer, daily, is 'Your Kingdom come'. God's Kingdom is, I believe, Good News for all. It means transformed lives: growing church, building community - and, for that we need generous faith, courageous hope, life-giving love. My desire for this diocese is that we know we are loved beyond measure by Jesus, and, sure in the hope that gives us, we have the courage to love without restraint for Jesus' sake.



Rt Revd Libby Lane, Bishop of Derby

That, for me, is Kingdom of God. It is an extraordinary grace to be invited to join Kingdom of God. That means for me salvation, community, justice, hope. I don't deserve it, it is pure grace. And my prayer is that we yearn to grow Kingdom of God - for all ages, increasing our diversity, across every geographical, socio-economic, and cultural context (and from all our theological and church traditions and circumstances).

I long that who we are as Kingdom people – courageous, compassionate, creative, committed – is so alive, so attractive, so inspirational, that growth of the Kingdom is natural. I long that we grow in depth of faith and daily living of discipleship, that we grow participation in worshipping congregations, that we grow in scope and scale of impact in our communities. It is part of my calling to encourage that, literally to 'give heart', so we sustain the hope that gives us courage, not just to carry on, but also to be brave, radical and even risk taking. Because encouragement is about 'heart', that also means always being relational, generous, outward looking, and life giving.

We have discerned that God is calling us into new ways of being, as well as new ways of doing, church. We recognise that the scale and scope of the challenge ahead is significant. The transitions needed in culture and delivery of identified Diocesan priorities, in the timescales now anticipated post-Covid, are considerable. The strands of immediate work for implementing transition around financial resilience, Diocesan structure, deployment, Diocesan Office, and Buildings for Mission are being shaped, and will include wide conversation and exploration following Diocesan Synod in October. Commitment to innovation and creativity will be necessary, alongside continuing commitment to inherited practice that is faithfully fruitful.

Therefore, support through transition, investment in establishing new partnerships and relationships, as well as the re-articulation of continuing models will all need to be in place as people and communities are accompanied through loss, change, opportunity and renewal and revival. This is a deep work of the Holy Spirit. We will root our work in prayer, and discern the signs of the Kingdom, that we might join in with God, to 'proclaim afresh in this generation the good news of Christ'. Our prayer is that not just what we do, but who we are proclaims that good news. Embodying our values of generous faith, courageous hope, life-giving love must mark us out as we reshape the work, worship and witness of the Church of England in Derby and Derbyshire – equipping all the people of God, both laity and clergy, for faithful response to our call: Good News for all - transformed lives: growing church, building community.



*Warm September brings the fruit,
Sportsmen then begin to shoot.*

*Fresh October brings the pheasants,
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.*

The Months – Sara Coleridge

Getting to Know You

In this newsletter we meet two reverends – husband and wife team Revd John Wood and Revd Chrissie Wood, who have shared their interesting and very varied life in ministry.

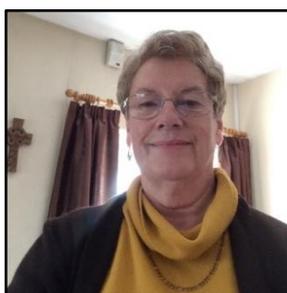


Revd John Wood & Harry

In my late teens, starting from a low base, (I couldn't name the gospels or any of the disciples) I joined a Methodist youth club in Skegness. It was there that I began to learn about faith and made a Christian commitment at the age of 17. Two years later I started a Civil Engineering degree at Leeds. I joined the Methodist Society and was part of a joint group with the Anglican Society. It was in that group that I first met Chrissie, who long before the CofE had thought of it, felt a call to 'priesthood'. After graduation I started work in flood protection schemes on the River Severn and its tributaries. We married as soon as Chrissie finished at Leeds one year later and lived in Mid Wales as I worked on a construction site. After four years and at the point I became a chartered engineer, the growing sense of calling led me to ask the Bishop of Worcester to put me forward for ordination. We spent three years at St John's, Nottingham, followed by ordination in Lichfield Diocese and a three-year curacy near Cannock Chase.

We then moved to St Luke's in West Bridgford as priest-in-charge where I worked to form the new parish of St Luke's Gamston and Bridgford. In those years as our three children grew up, Chrissie trained as a psychotherapist, and some years later was accepted for ordination as a priest. I began a part time role in mental health chaplaincy and after four years moved to a full-time role as head of Chaplaincy at Kings Mill Hospital in Mansfield where I remained until retirement in 2016. My management role also involved the bereavement service and between the two departments we dealt with all those who died, from babies to old age. I spent many years as part of both research and clinical ethics committees and did a post graduate course in Clinical Ethics and Law at Keele University during that time.

My last three years prior to retirement I transferred to the adjacent John Eastwood Hospice and enjoyed both the freedom from management and engagement with a lovely community of staff and patients, with such a positive attitude of embracing life to the full to its end. In 2008 Chrissie and I moved to our present home in Higham and thoroughly enjoyed life in the country after many years in a suburban conurbation. Soon after arriving we both became associate priests in the Benefice under the direction of Rev'd Margaret Jacques. We are now working our way through a second interregnum and, like you all, battling Covid 19. Thankfully the golf course is open, and our two dogs ask for their, at least two, outings each day!



Revd Chrissie Wood

When I was 6, someone asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, and I answered, 'a vicar'. I was gently told that girls couldn't be vicars, so I said I'd be the wife of a minister, instead. 16 years later, after I'd completed a maths degree and a PGCE, I married John – an engineer – and began teaching. So much for marrying a vicar – except ... five years after we married, John began ordination training and for the next 13 years I was a vicar's wife! During these years, I was at home with our three young children and then when our youngest started school, I went back to teaching for a few years. However, the prospect of pushing back the boundaries of mathematical knowledge for the rest of my working life didn't fill me with enthusiasm.

What I really enjoyed about teaching were the conversations outside the classroom, which gave me opportunity for some pastoral work with the students, and this was what I liked about being a vicar's wife, too: offering a listening ear. I began to feel quite strongly that I, too, was being called into the priesthood – this was when women could only be ordained into the Diaconate – and offered myself for ordination. I was turned down, which was devastating at the time, although I can see why now.

I was very insistent that I felt called into the priesthood. When I recovered my equilibrium, I enrolled on a pastoral counselling course and then began training in Transactional Analysis (TA) psychotherapy. This was a part-time training and it took a good few years to qualify, by which time I had a thriving private psychotherapy practice. I then became a trainer and supervisor in TA and for almost 10 years created

and delivered a course in TA counselling which integrated faith and spirituality with a professional counselling training.

By this time, John had moved out of the parish and into sector ministry and I began worshipping in a different church. One day the vicar asked me to consider offering myself again for ordained ministry – by now women had been accepted into the priesthood. I hummed and hah'd for a year: I enjoyed being a therapist and felt that this was my ministry now. In the end I offered myself for Self-Supporting ministry so I could maintain my clinical practice and was accepted. During my theological studies with the East Midlands Ministerial Training Course, I completed a placement at Rampton Hospital – the high security psychiatric hospital near Retford. I so enjoyed it there that I did three times the number of hours required for the placement and made it clear to the Chaplaincy team that if there was ever a vacancy, I'd like to know about it.

I served my title in a Nottingham parish about 5 miles from our home, but had only served about half of it when the Chaplaincy at Rampton contacted me to see if I could help them out on a sessional basis, as one of their chaplains had left to take up another position. I was delightedly told by the Director of Curate Training at the time, that he couldn't think of a better place for me! I stayed at Rampton on a part-time basis for almost five years, until I moved to set up a chaplaincy in a secure psychiatric hospital in Mansfield. It was a new unit, for male offenders with learning difficulties and autistic spectrum disorders. This was also a part-time job, so I could continue my private psychotherapy practice and free-lance training. By this time, we had moved to Higham and were serving as Associate priests in the Benefice here. I stayed at the Mansfield hospital for just over four years until I decided to retire and keep the day's I used to work at the hospital for seeing friends and grandchildren and doing the garden. For the rest of the week I continue to work in my clinical practice. Lockdown has meant that all my consultations are on-line, via Skype, Zoom or WhatsApp, and the services John and I are holding each Sunday are also 'virtual'.

We love being here in Derbyshire; after living in the Trent valley for so long, we have very much enjoyed the hills of the Peak District. And now I have two new knees (replaced in the last eighteen months) I am relishing walking with John and our dogs in these beautiful surroundings.

Bishop's Harvest Appeal 2020

Peace of Mind – supporting wellbeing in Derbyshire



This year's harvest season will not resemble previous years. How we will celebrate in church and in schools will be very different as the Coronavirus continues to affect every aspect of our lives. Many people have experienced loss during this pandemic – loss of loved ones, loss of jobs and usual routines. This has resulted in many people experiencing anxiety and other mental health problems, and sadly there has been an increase in domestic violence and abuse.

That's why this year the Bishop of Derby's Harvest Appeal will focus on supporting the wellbeing of everyone in Derbyshire. This year's appeal is Peace of Mind: supporting wellbeing in Derbyshire. There are a number of free online resources and events to support positive mental health and wellbeing. Included is an online reading group, poetry for health and community activities. Workshops are free and will be held via Zoom.

You can book a place via the Learning in Faith pages on the Diocesan website. Alongside the events programme Bishop Libby has set a target to raise £15,000 to support Derbyshire Mind's wellbeing programme 'Enjoying Derbyshire'. Enjoying Derbyshire is a project that offers a diverse menu of activities and workshops aimed at improving mental wellbeing. You can find more information at:

<http://www.derbyshiremind.org.uk/wellbeing-programme/>

More resources and events will be available on the diocesan website and social media channels throughout the autumn.

A Prayer for Harvest 2020

Loving God,
We give thanks for those who produce our food:
for farmers and fishermen, factory and shop workers.
We pray for those for whom this has been a difficult year:
farmers who have battled the weather to grow food,
delivery drivers and shop workers who kept working despite the pandemic.
Help us to value and support each other.
In Jesus' name. Amen.



Derbyshire Mind

This year's Bishop of Derby Harvest Appeal supports the work of Derbyshire Mind a local organisation that focuses on the mental health and wellbeing of residents in Derbyshire and Derby City. Derbyshire Mind is committed to developing innovative and responsive services which promote mental health awareness and wellbeing.

Through more than 50 years of experience and local work supporting people experiencing mental health problems, Derbyshire Mind has developed and provided a range of different services including our Advocacy Services and the Enjoying Derbyshire Community Wellbeing Programme.

Derbyshire Mind is committed to:

- working for improvements in local mental health services
- making it possible for people with mental health problems to voice their opinions
- offering quality local services
- challenging the stigma attached to people labelled "mentally ill" and increasing public understanding of mental health issues

Derbyshire Mind works in partnership at a local level with statutory, independent and voluntary sector agencies in the health and social care sector. If you or someone you know needs help and support with your mental health and wellbeing you can find advice and contact details from the following sources:

Mind – www.mind.org.uk

Amber Trust – supports people with mental ill health to live successfully in their local community
www.ambertrust.co.uk and 01773 599599

Derbyshire Mental Health Services – www.derbyshirementalhealthservices.nhs.uk

Derbyshire Carers – help and information for those who care for others www.derbyshirecarers.co.uk

Time to Change – Information, advice and support regarding Mental Health Discrimination in the workplace
www.time-to-change.org.uk/employment

Michaelmas Ordinations



This year's ordination services were held on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September at Derby Cathedral. Unlike in previous years when there has been one service this year there were a number of services on each day to ensure compliance with Covid-19 restrictions and to allow family and sponsors to attend.

Please pray for all our new ordinands as they start their ministry.

Heath and Holmewood Community Action

Recognising that children often outgrow their clothes long before they are worn out Revd Alex Mann decided that some re-using and recycling could take place so as the school summer holidays began Revd Alex collected many items of unwanted school uniform and children's clothing. After approaching Heath Primary School, a temporary distribution centre was set up in front of the school on Wednesday mornings. Anyone who needed the uniform and clothes was welcome to go along and take what they needed. The photograph was taken on a very warm Wednesday the 12th August. Revd Alex said 'the response has been very positive – even in this heat! We set up the free school uniform and children's clothing stalls on Heath School playground and with the Parish Council outside the pavilion. We are very grateful to both organisations who have welcomed us to partner with them whilst they were giving out food.



The clothing stall at Heath Primary School on a very warm Wednesday.

The clothing stalls were very well received, and we virtually ran out of school uniform and girl's clothing. What we had left we have donated to the parish council for their ongoing indoor project. We are very grateful to all who donated and helped.'



Over the summer months interviews for the vacancies of Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor and Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel took place.

Hannah Hogg has been appointed Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. Mrs Hogg is currently Corporate Safeguarding Lead at Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust and brings with her extensive experience of working across a multi-agency partnership at a senior level. The Derby Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser post is a key role and Mrs Hogg will advise the diocese on all safeguarding matters ensuring that all advice is in line with the law, government guidance and national policy and guidance from the House of Bishops.

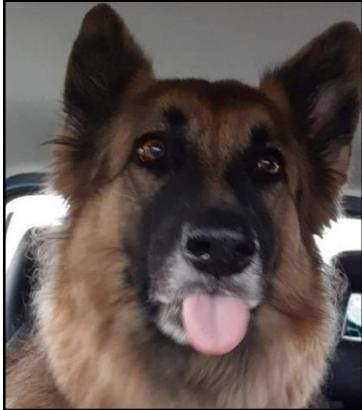
Mrs Hogg will take up her new role in October.

Helen Jebb has been appointed the Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel. Mrs Jebb is a former Detective Chief Superintendent with Nottinghamshire Police, where she was Head of Crime and Intelligence with responsibility for Public Protection and Safeguarding. This role will see Mrs Jebb ensure that the work of the safeguarding team is conducted impartially and in cooperation with other safeguarding agencies and that the needs of victim/survivors, children, young people and vulnerable adults are fully considered.

Mrs Jebb will join the diocese in September.

On confirming the appointments, Bishop Libby said: 'I am delighted to welcome Hannah and Helen to the team. Safeguarding is at the very heart of being Church and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Both statutory responsibility and safe culture are key, and Hannah and Helen bring expertise and experience to enable the diocese to ensure best practice in Safeguarding for children, young people and vulnerable adults in our churches. I am looking forward to working with them'.

The first thing I did after lockdown was....



Mia – I stuck my tongue out at people from Mum's car window



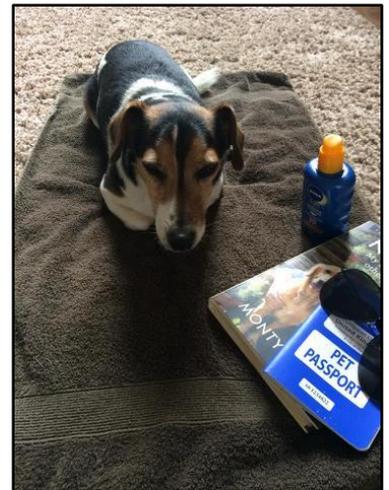
Blue & Mia – we went to the beach



Moo – I went to the pub with my Mummy and we both got very tipsy



Bob – I went to see my friends at my favourite butchers



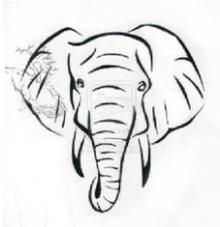
Monty – I packed my holiday bag and then Mummy & Daddy left me at home



Murphy – I went on holiday and Mummy wouldn't let me play on the beach



Bella – I grew up into a big girl this summer and then spread cardboard all over Daddy's garden



REMEMBER!

This year's APCM must be completed by Saturday 31st October. You can access the full set of FAQs about the process at:

<https://derby.anglican.org/en/about-us/governance/apcms/apcm-faqs.html>

The Diocese of Derby has joined a national planned giving scheme which aims to reduce the workload for parishes whilst increasing giving potential. The Parish Giving Scheme is a modern and efficient way of managing planned giving to your church. Tried and tested, this scheme will:

- Improve cash flow through the efficient reclaiming of Gift Aid
- Reduce the time your Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretaries need to spend on administration
- Offer an opportunity for parishes to re-engage people in thinking about their own level of financial generosity
- Overcome static giving with the option of donations automatically uplifted by inflation each year



Further information, Parish Giving Scheme Donor Direct Debit Gift Form, Parish Registration Forms and tokens that PGS donors can put in the weekly collection plate. are available from: finance@derby.anglican.org or by telephoning Mary Kemp on 01332 388695.



Ault Hucknall Welcomes Mr and Mrs Webb

Wednesday 16th September was a very special day for one couple in Ault Hucknall, not only was it their wedding day but they are also the only couple to marry at St John the Baptist this year. Andrew and Laura were married by Licence and the ceremony was conducted by Revd Judy Henderson Smith. Revd Judy said, 'despite the restrictions it was a joyous occasion'.

We send our congratulations and best wishes to Andrew and Laura for a blessed and happy future.

Heath Old Church – Revd Alex Mann

It's always better late than never, so on our second attempt we held the annual outdoor service at Heath Old Church. The old church is the last remaining part of the village of Lound. Except for the south porch the church was demolished in 1852. Stones from the building were used to build a mortuary chapel to service the burial ground which was still open at that time. In the eastern wall of the mortuary chapel there are stones with the names of two church wardens, others with shields and carvings and one with the date 1622 on it. In the west wall is a stone slab from the 12th century.

Despite the wearing of masks and no sharing of picnic's we were blessed in our act of worship focusing on creation. Sadly, as many of you will know this lovely old place of worship is at risk from the HS2 development so how long this tradition will be able to continue we do not know, but while we can we will continue to worship once each year in the grounds of the old church.



Enjoying the service at Heath Old Church

A Parishioners Tale - The Ongoing Saga



Well the virus pandemic, seems to be getting much worse,
So, the vicar has asked me, to put some words into verse,
I've sat at my computer, and donned my thinking cap,
It might take a while, so I might need a nap.

We're now back to church, through the great wooden door,
Masks securely fitted, sanitising hands once more,
Social distancing in operation, find a designated pew,
No cushions to sit on, my back aches, how about you.



The service begins, through it the vicar does sail,
Glasses steamed up, need the service sheet in Braille,
The choir is now singing, a few hymns are the choice,
One good thing about the mask, you can't hear my voice.



The world is now changing, and will never be the same,
And many folks pointing, the finger of blame,
We must all pull together, to beat this dreadful disease,
And keep our faith strong, the Lord we must please.

Many companies are closing, millions of jobs have been
lost,
At the end of it all, there's a terrible cost,
Thousands of lives have been taken, and many hold fears,
And for relatives left behind, eyes full of tears.

To beat this disease, we must do as we are told,
The consequences if we don't, many won't grow to be old,
The church is still here, to give succour for those in need,
And through prayer to Our Lord, we will eventually succeed.



Well that's the doom and gloom out of the way, now for the
good news.

Er, umm, ooh. Oh yes.

Last month my wife and I celebrated our Golden Wedding,
that cost me quite a few quid,
And Rachel's congratulations were, Sheila needs a medal like a
dustbin lid,
But it's great to be back in church, and give God all our grace,
Seeing our old friends again, even though it's only half their face,
(that's sometimes a bonus)
Hopefully returning to normal soon, whatever it takes,
And to follow the service, with a cuppa and cakes.



Amen.

God Bless.

Stay Safe.

Mick Bust Bolsover Parish Church





Autumn Word Search

B J K Y X L V Z E P R R Q F X V I S W W A H N Q W N W T H W
 K O Y W X T T U G J Z Y A R Z Y N X I M O N Q J C L J T A I
 N X I I Q C G C P L O L L L V R E N L U Y M R C I O Y Y R N
 D M N M O G P N F L L R G A O X D U Z G N I I P Q R H W V N
 L S S E N L U F T I U R F C S F H T N T L Q B S D D W K E O
 Y M Y G O G A H N K S V A N A Q P S O U R C S Q E T T Z S W
 H E F T S X L G T R H R A L E G Y Z H F M K K F S D C O T I
 P S I R C P L X R M F D L E V Y C Y S B R O B U N J M L F N
 W H Y N Q E M O M Y R S Z Y D E H J J K E A D F M G I L E G
 O X A R A K T X K Q R H G N C R Q H S K M R I B B T A J S K
 Z M R V B A J H C T H I P N M E L L O W M A X N B N P O T E
 J D E E P Z T A G E O X A G I V W Q A B U W V A P Z P K I P
 C S W V M L M I U I M B S F Q N G D J N S J S X Y I L O V V
 D C F X A E N C H D N S E C E Y A C M B N T R V R R E F A F
 Z L T B N X M O H G K E V R A S K E B W A S E H T O S I L F
 F A R S M O Z B N X C I R D F R O N L V I I K T B Y A D H G
 K I U W O E T I R O W U S I B E E O I G D M N U M B R F C V
 T B J T M R P G R A E T O U F D S C G K N M O J M H F M G Q
 R O V L U M F N Y F N V U A U N W T R P I A C C K A T G N G
 V N O R U M U Q B I C C I I U H O R Q O L L Z B L H Z Q I A
 U Z H R H C N P A I E G E E B L S B M I W L N C Q G V C K A
 Z C C I O M K S D N Z W H S B A C E C D H S X C R I H X A Z
 L S U P W U L E H Z O E Y R U O H Q S K R O W E R I F R M L
 A G I R I L R B I H G C F R Z N L T X I Q U P A F S O C M K
 D A N H A L L O W E E N S H P B D N Y R A L E L V Q L P A R
 N R N O I G X F I T G W J V O M H A R V E S T M O O N D J V
 Z H O E C M O P B J X X I L O Q I B Y A P D E A U P H Q N D
 T F V I J D A D A H S V R C X O W U J B Z A S N I K P M U P
 R F Z C D Y Y Z F L I N E M X X Q F E S P Y H K V C U L O O
 Q L J G J V M A Y Y B B W G G J O L X A D J F X E L V T U F

Find the autumn related words and phrases in the word search

- | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Acorns | Cider | Frost | Harvest moon | Pumpkins |
| All Saints Day | Conkers | Fruitfulness | Indian summer | Remembrance Sunday |
| All Souls Day | Cornucopia | Gleaning | Jam making | Scarecrow |
| Apples | Crisp | Goose fair | Mellow | Scrumpling |
| Autumn | Falling leaves | Halloween | Mist | Windfall |
| Bonfire night | Fireworks | Harvest festival | Oktoberfest | Winnowing |



It's quiz time again. This time all the answers begin with the letters M – T. There are 35 points available. Sorry no prizes – it's just for fun. Answers can be found at the bottom of the newsletter.

1. Which special administrative region of China used to be a Portugese colony?
2. What desert largely occupies south east California as well as areas of Arizona, Nevada and Utah?
3. What is the name of the only country to be awarded the George Cross for bravery?
4. This American state is situated in Tornado Alley – what is it called?
5. New York, New York so good they named it twice – but what was the name of the city until 1665?
6. What is the capital of the autonomous Danish province of Greenland?
7. Only one country begins with the letter O. Name it.
8. Name the places from the descriptions below – all the places begin with the letter 'P':

Site of a bowls game in 1588

This Scottish town gave its name to a textile

Discovered in 1930 by a man in Kansas

9. There is only one country to have a capital city beginning with the letter Q. Name the city.
10. Which country holds 20% of the worlds fresh water? You get an extra point for the name of the body of fresh water.
11. Name the 11 cities in the UK that begin with an 'S'. One point for each city.
12. All these places begin with the letter 'S' – where are they? One point for each correct answer.

I'm setting my satnav for 90°s 0°e because there isn't a postcode

US state named after Charles I

US state named after a Native American people

Here you can walk along the longest pleasure pier in the world

13. Name the four places from the descriptions below – the answers all begin with the letter 'T'. One point for each correct answer.

State that's home to the bishop & clerk islets, Australia's southernmost point

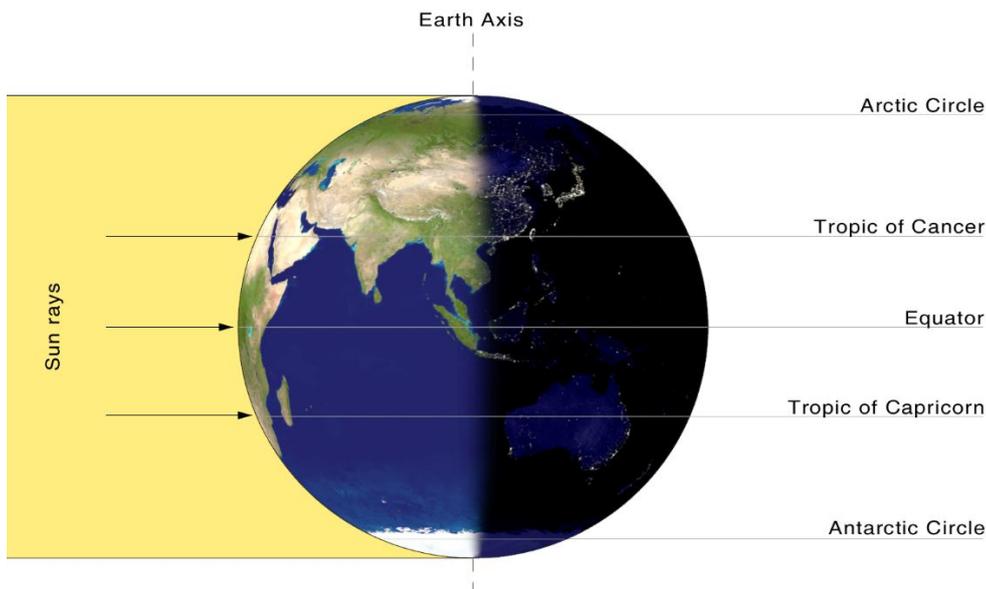
A man on a pole stands in the middle of it.

It's been a city since 1876 and has a beautiful cathedral.

Which island country in the Caribbean gives us two 't's for the price of one?

14. In the Olympics, Sweden is the top country – outside of Asia – in which sport?
15. At the beginning of the George Orwell novel 1984, what do the clocks strike?
16. On a standard dart board what is the lowest score that cannot be achieved with a single dart?

The Autumn Equinox



The word equinox comes from the Latin *aequinoctium* meaning 'equal night'.

The equinox is the moment when the Earth's equator passes through the centre of the Sun's disk, or the moment the Sun passes the celestial equator. This happens twice a year in the Spring and again in the Autumn.

On the dates that this occurs, there are approximately equal hours of daylight and darkness. The autumn equinox always occurs in September and in the northern hemisphere it marks the end of the summer and the start of the autumn season.

This year the autumn equinox was on the 22nd September at 2.30pm. Following the equinox is the Harvest Moon – this is the name given to the full moon that occurs nearest to the autumn equinox. Historically the light of the Harvest Moon was said to enable farmers to work late into the night, helping them to bring in the crops from the fields.

National Collection week this year is the 9th – 16th November



'Let the little children come to me... for of such is the kingdom of God'
Luke 18:16

Operation Christmas Child

Famous for its shoe boxes sent to those in need in other countries, Operation Christmas child merged with Samaritan's Purse in 1993. Since then the charity has gone from strength to strength and has brought joy to children in countries as far afield as Burkina Faso and Belarus.

The success enjoyed by the charity is borne out of its unique selling point – the shoe box. The idea of filling a simple shoe box with small gifts for a child in need has captured the imagination in the same way as the parable of The Good Samaritan did so long ago.

This year of course things will be very different, but the need remains. Samaritans Purse will be collecting shoe boxes at designated collection points and they will be customising drop off at their collection points to prioritise the health, safety and welfare of donors and volunteers at the centres.

Strict cleaning protocols will also be in place and all processing will be socially distanced. You can fill a box on your own or club together with friends and colleagues to fill a box which of course keeps the cost down for each person. The box is designed to be a fun gift rather than an aid box, suggested items include cuddly toys, school supplies, hats and soap.

If you would be interested in gifting a shoe box but don't want to brave the shop's you can fill a virtual shoe box. The online cost is £20, and the box includes basic hygiene products and school supplies and your choice of toys and fun items.

Full details of how to pack a box, what to include and where it can be dropped off can be found at:

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

Magnum Opus While Vulnerable and at Risk

What did you do in Lockdown Grandfer
While the world fell to its knees;
And you in that bubble up on the hill
With buds opening on the trees?

What about those things you said you'd do
If you ever did have the time?
Did you do anything in Lockdown Grandfer
Apart from scribble and rhyme?

My neighbour built an extension / on the south side of his home;
I spent that same time looking / everywhere for my phone.
My neighbour wrote a novel / of a hundred thousand words;
I sat in the garden listening / to the singing of the birds.

My neighbour spent a morning / writing a five act play;
I'd changed from my pyjamas / by round about midday.
My neighbour built a garage / with a vintage car inside;
I wandered among the bluebells / as they grew and flowered and died.

My neighbour washed his car each day / and made it gleam and shine;
I sat and drank a coffee / and thought about washing mine.
My neighbour read his bible / and learned to recite it all;
I smelt the scent of wild garlic / watched the cherry blossom fall.

My neighbour fetched a ladder and painted his front room;
While I played Hangman with the kids / and Pictionary on Zoom.
My neighbour landscaped his garden / and pulled out every weed;
I marvelled how my roses grew / and scattered wild flower seed.

My neighbour installed solar panels / and said he was going green;
I nodded in approval / and read my magazine.
My neighbour checked government statistics / which he said he didn't believe;
I said, "You're probably correct" / and binge watched Killing Eve.

My neighbour proudly showed me / the summer house he had built;
And we poured ourselves a beer and felt / helplessness and guilt.
My neighbour and I stood well apart / and clapped the NHS;
"Sometimes we feel fulfilled," we said / "sometimes we feel depressed."

From in our sunlit bubble / floating on this hill,
We could look down on a landscape / of people lying ill
Where the land sweated in a fever / convulsed in agony
While we listened to the blackbirds / and slept in Gethsemane.

Martyn Offord, St Mary's Church Crich

Quiz Answers: 1. Macau 2. Mojave 3. Malta 4. Nebraska 5. New Amsterdam 6. Nuuk 7. Oman 8. Plymouth;
Paisley; Pluto 9. Quito, Ecuador 10. Russia in Lake Baikal 11. Salford; Salisbury; Sheffield; Southampton;
Stirling; Stoke-on-Trent; Sunderland; Swansea; St Albans; St David's; St Asaph 12. South Pole; South Carolina;
South Dakota; Southend (on Sea) 13. Tasmania; Trafalgar Square; Truro; Trinidad & Tobago 14. Table Tennis
15. Thirteen 16. Twenty-three