



Tacket Street, Ipswich, IP4 1AU

**COMMENT  
OCTOBER 2020**

## THE MINISTER WRITES ...



Dear All,

I write to you having just been at our first Service back in the sanctuary since March. With the building made ready for a COVID safe return and Service of Worship, it was great to see so many of you again and it was wonderful to hear the organ played by our organist, Stephen, and the singing of our hymns for us by our small choir. The music was brilliant and there was a typically warm, friendly atmosphere I thought. It was an apt date to return as we then also had the opportunity to mark 300 years of worship on our Tacket Street site. The first ever Service in our

present location took place in the newly built meeting house on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 1720 and we marked this by remembering some history and a time of prayer. Having enjoyed the morning worshipping with you all, I must say I am so thankful for all those who have helped us get to this stage, all who contributed to the smooth running of the morning and those who took part in the Service. Despite the restrictions, I thought it felt like a 'proper' Christ Church Service!

The only thing that did not feel quite like 'Christ Church' was the sad fact that, along with those away on long planned breaks, quite a few good friends who would have loved to be present are unable to come at this time for understandable reasons. We remembered those not with us at a number of points within the Service and as we said 'The Grace', I imagined all of our Church, those present and those at home, saying this to one another, maybe even at a similar time!

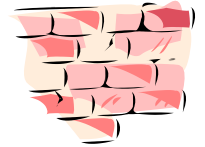
I know we all look forward to being able to attend the Service together and in the meantime, we will do all we can to express our being one church family in this unusual season. As I've mentioned before, we will continue the Service sheet format and the Sunday Service will be the same whether we worship in the sanctuary or in our own homes. Starting from this first Sunday back, we are also making an audio file and a video of the Service in the sanctuary, available later on each Sunday by email. Admittedly, there may well be weeks when this is not possible, but we hope that most weeks this will be available for those who have internet access and wish to see or hear the sanctuary worship.

For those friends without internet access, if you have a member of your family who you see regularly, would they be able to help you access an audio or video file? Perhaps, if asked, they might be able to download it to their phone or a tablet before they visit and could then share it with you? If this is possible, please just ask your family member to email Rob or me and we can ensure they receive the Sunday evening email. If this is not possible but you wish to benefit from this idea, please just let me know and we will try and find another solution for you. Many thanks indeed to Rob and Alan for their work to make this a reality at short notice.

I close with a blessing:

*May you be strong to grasp, with all God's people,  
what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ,  
and to know it, though it is beyond knowledge.  
So may you attain to fullness of being,  
the fullness of God himself. (Ephesians 3:18f)*

Grace and peace,  
Neil



## OVER THE GARDEN WALL

... from our neighbours at St Pancras

Dear neighbours,

At St Pancras, people are gradually gaining confidence in returning to Church, although some do not yet feel able to return. Our Bishop Alan has urged people to return to the sacraments, but the Sunday obligation is still set aside so we can come to Mass at quieter times of the week.

This month, Pope Francis has asked us to pray for the mission of the laity and the ordinary people of the Church, that by the Grace of their baptism they, especially women, may become more active in areas of responsibility in the Church.

At St Pancras as in many churches, women are the unsung heroes who keep the place going and teach, lead and nurture. Over the years, members of our parish have held key posts including working for the diocese and for local deanery and national Catholic organisations.

As always, inspiring younger women to take up their place in the work of the church is a challenge, as they are often managing jobs, homes and families. Those roles are vital however in building the domestic church and witnessing to the Gospel in the home and its immediate sphere of influence. Parents are the first and most important teachers. The primary educators.

The Vatican is hosting a meeting this month to sign the global education pact. This is an 'all faiths and none' international process, to ensure people everywhere can access education for building local society, justice and for safeguarding the planet.

The relaxation of lockdown and return of students to schools and further education may yet see a resurgence of coronavirus but we are getting better at reducing the risks and keeping each other safe. Whatever we do, we must trust Our Lord to protect us, and pray for healing and protection. We are instructed by our hierarchy and by the Gospel to be obedient to the rules and laws which are given to keep us safe.

Pray for us please as we send our love to you all and pray for all your needs in Christ Jesus.

*Bernie and the folks at St Pancras*



## TACKET STREET BOYS' BRIGADE OLD BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB

Since we first put out a team in 1965, our football club has been a member of the Suffolk and Ipswich League. We have had ongoing encouragement as well as financial contributions from friends at Christ Church, some of which have supported the Club over all those 55 years.

On withdrawing from the league, due to movement of managers and key players, we realised how well we have played our part in local football. In the early days, the team was made up of former members of 1<sup>st</sup> Ipswich BB, and proudly we held a prestigious place in the league and achieved a good standard of skill and success in promotions and cups. We have had acknowledgement from the league, of a well-run club, and from other teams of friendliness and sportsmanship, after our decision and announcement of withdrawal.

We want to record a special thank you to all those who played any part in the financial running of the club; your help and interest was invaluable over all that time and much appreciated.

*Ron Baker - Chairman*

*Bryan Naunton - Secretary*

*(Nigel Flatman - Treasurer)*

### Suffolk Historic Churches Trust - Ride & Stride

Thanks to those who sat outside the church on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September to sign in cyclists and walkers. I think some of you had a very quiet time but it was an opportunity for a socially distanced chat with someone you probably hadn't seen for a long time. It was good to know that this event was able to take place despite all the restrictions. We were blessed with a beautiful day and Ann, Audrey and Eddie enjoyed visiting many rural churches, as well as giving us a look later in the day. The total amount raised is not yet known, but thanks to all those who donated - money is sent to the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust who then send half back to our treasurer for Christ Church.



### BOOKS FOR SALE

I am taking orders for the I.B.R.A. Readings and U.R.C. Prayer handbook : Conversations and will place the orders on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

The I.B.R.A. publication costs £9.99 and Conversations is £4.99. There will be an additional charge for postage. Please let me have your orders as soon as possible.

*Jane*



## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS ...

... as you help raise funds for the Helwel Trust

A suggestion has been made that we could run a *Count your Blessings* fundraiser, similar to that used in the past by Christian Aid during Lent. We have so much to be thankful for and we can use this as a constant reminder and donate as suggested or as we feel appropriate.

It will run until the end of November when you can let the Treasurer have a cheque for the amount raised or pay into the church account with a reference Helwel Trust.

*Church Life Committee.*

If you have had a flu vaccine or are booked to have one - donate 50p.

Do you take a vitamin supplement? - If you do give 50p.

You may be prescribed medicines - give 20p for each item on your prescription.

You can buy medicine over the counter in a pharmacy - give 20p for each medicine you have bought this month.

You can visit a doctor or have a telephone consultation when you need it - donate 50p if you have had either in the last two months.

A&E is available if you need to go - give 50p if you have visited in the past six months.

We have clean water to drink - donate 10p for each drink containing water you have in a twenty-four hour period.

Many of us are able to have a free eye test each year - if you have had an eye test donate 50p.

COVID 19 symptoms enable us to have a free test - if you have had a test give 20p.

Paracetamol is a widely used drug - donate 20p for each packet in your cupboard.

All monies raised may be sent to the Treasurer, details to be included in the November Comment.



## ECO CHURCH - CREATION CARE

An argument is sometimes put forward that, as the UK is only responsible for approximately 1% of global CO2 emissions, changes to our lifestyles at a personal or even national level are largely irrelevant to the global problem of climate change. However, there are a number of reasons why we should indeed take our responsibility in this area seriously. Just for a start, the UK may have less than 1% of the world's population, but there are very many smaller nations and, as concerted world-wide action is needed to tackle the climate and ecological problems we are urgently facing, we cannot all be exempt from that on account of our size.

Michael Gove has recently said that the UK has a "moral responsibility" to lead on cutting greenhouse gas emissions due to its role in sparking the industrial revolution. The build-up of CO2 in the atmosphere is cumulative and it is us, and countries like us, who have been extracting and burning massive amounts of fossil fuels over a couple of centuries. We might not have known then that this was going to be harmful but now we do. Meanwhile it is often the least developed countries, who have done the least to cause the problems, who are being disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change. Having said that, we can see from the recent news of fires in the USA and the thawing of the permafrost in Siberia that any of us are vulnerable. Naturally the least developed countries will aspire to the levels of wealth and comfort we enjoy, so it is important that as they go forward, their investment is in renewable energies and technologies.

If we are comparing countries, then comparing the emissions per head of population is perhaps most useful. Here the USA leads the field by far, with 16 tonnes per person per year; for China it is 7 tonnes, for the UK it is 6 tonnes and for India it is 2 tonnes. For the world as a whole to reach a safe level, the average globally needs to be in the region of 2 tonnes. The problem here is our rates of consumption, with the so-called developed countries consuming by far the most per person. Population growth, which sometimes takes the blame for increasing emissions globally, is overwhelmingly in the poorest countries where consumption is negligible.

Rates of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK have in fact been dropping in recent years, but the decline in our manufacturing industries has a great deal to do with that. In China, on the other hand, the rates have increased dramatically as their industries have grown. It is only too easy for us to see how much of what we buy is now made in China. So perhaps the emissions produced by the manufacture and transport of what we in the UK buy from China should be added to our numbers! We have effectively outsourced production and our responsibility for global warming emissions.

So, it seems that it is American society that has the most to do to bring its per capita level of emissions down to sustainable levels and good leadership there is badly needed. And there are other countries and governments whose behaviour we know needs to change. But in the UK too we need to reduce our consumption and greenhouse gas emissions to a level that can be sustained by the planet and there are historical and moral reasons for our responsibility to do so. And as Christian people should we not want to set a good example and do "the right thing"? Furthermore, the changes we need to make can bring great benefits to our society. Eliminating dirty vehicles would tackle the air pollution crisis, more sustainable diets are often healthier and insulating homes better means lower heating bills. What, as they say, is not to like?

*Kate*

[Figures are from Our World in Data](#)