

# LivingWay



**Two RAF BBMF Spitfires stop off at Southend Airport  
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VE Day Memorial Flight**



**St Laurence and All Saints Eastwood  
Parish Newsletter  
No. 155 July-August 2020**

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# Message from the Vicar Revd Kingsley Yeboah

## Faith and Wisdom



My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. (James 1:2-4 NRSV)

When God's people are called upon to pass through great trials, it is not evidence of God's displeasure. For instance, when we read what happened to Job in the book of Job, that book is not about "why do the innocent suffer?" If it was, it really wasn't answered. The reader is let in on a conversation that Job had not overheard. It is about attempting to maintain God's Divine Viewpoint; the larger picture.

"Temptations" here does not refer to being tempted to sin, but rather the testing of faith.

The purpose of suffering is for preparation for life in general and in particular for ministry. If one professes to have faith in the Lord, they can depend upon it that their profession will be put to the test sooner or later.

We are, by nature, fretful, and impatient. We rebel against the ways of God and want our own way. But he who learns to be submissive to whatever God permits glorifies Him who orders all things according to His own will.

David said his soul had quieted itself as a weaned child: Ps 131 (only three verses that says it all). Fed on more mature food, although initially fretful and peevish, it accepts gratefully the new nourishment. The goal is maturity and the development of a strong Christian character. Becoming mature and whole, no longer craving for what God sees fit to withhold: this is a real victory, but it requires superhuman wisdom. The wisdom God gives goes beyond common sense. Common sense does not lead us to choose joy in the middle of trials. This wisdom begins with respect for God, leads to living by God's principles and direction, and results in the ability to discern right from wrong.

As we continue to learn to live with the terrible Covid19, be patient, learn, and discover what it is that God is teaching you through this season of your life.

God Bless, Revd. Kingsley

Cover Photos courtesy of London Southend Airport Air Traffic Control.

Credits: Ross Day and Luke Baker.

Thank you.

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## Church in Lockdown

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How are we all doing in these very different times? As a Church we have been re imagining ways in which we can communicate with each other and continue to join together in worship during this time of lockdown. Technology has been the means of everyone keeping in touch with their loved ones and friends, not to mention working from home. Can we imagine how different all this would have been without it?

Thanks to Revds Kingsley and Mark we have had an increase in the services on offer throughout the week not just on Sunday. Putting out the services on Facebook live has meant that we are reaching a wider audience. It also means that you can dip into a service at any time as



they are all available on our Facebook account. You can reach this by visiting our website, (the address is on page seven) and click the link at the bottom of our home page then choose the video option. There's plenty to choose from.

However, some of our congregation have been unable to access these on line services so instead have been enjoying the wide variety of services available on the television such as Sunday Worship from churches from around the country and the old favourite, Songs of Praise - especially good for those who like to sing along with the hymns. As the lockdown



is easing we move to another phase in the life of the church. From Monday, 15th June all places of worship have been able to open for periods of private prayer providing the standards of social distancing and hygiene can be met. At St Laurence we have considered how we are to manage this opportunity. There are many things to consider in order to keep everyone safe. In the mean time the online services will continue, we suspect for some time to come. The big question now is what will Church of the future look like? In his message to the Diocese this week Bishop Peter said:

***“I believe God has been reforming us to be sent back into a different world, the ‘new normal’ as it is being described. We must not get back to the ‘same old same old’. We need to ask ourselves what have we learnt and how have we been transformed for Kingdom mission in readiness for our new future.”***

The Rt Revd Peter Hill, Acting Bishop of Chelmsford.

As we entered lockdown we had some wonderful news from one of our congregation, Sarah Rachell. Sarah has been studying and praying for guidance as she prepared to go forward to train to become a member of the clergy. Over the last year she has been going through the process of discernment and if accepted means that she can start her formal vocational training. This is a very soul searching time which involves a lot of meetings with members of the clergy in the Diocese, who are involved in this process. As a result earlier this year Sarah was selected to go forward to the last stage, to attend a National Bishops' Advisory Panel.



We are delighted to congratulate Sarah on being recommended for training for ordained ministry. Sarah will be with us for the next three years as an ordinand and joins our clergy team at St Laurence. She has already started work in the team by taking the Friday evening services on Facebook. They are a lovely calm way to close an evening and it would very worthwhile joining her as she starts her ministry.

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## So what else have we be up to.....

Eastwood went quiet, hardly any cars moving around, clear blue skies, no vapour trails, no aeroplanes. The silence has been golden. People are walking with or without a dog, some with small children in and out of prams, cycling, running all getting our daily exercise. Oh, we must not forget the supermarket queues around the car parks and some empty shelves when we got inside.



Some people must have cupboards bursting at the seams. Where do they put it all I ask myself? It took forever for flour to reappear in Waitrose so there must have been a lot of cakes being made, comfort food no doubt. The airport too has been unusually quiet. It is strange to see the rows of EasyJet and Ryanair plane tail fins standing in their rows waiting to fly their passengers to their favourite destinations, some time in the future.



It seemed that most of us went into the lockdown in ‘nesting mode’. The spring cleaning started with cupboards being emptied, cleaned and sorted. No doubt there were cries of ‘I wondered where that had gone’ and ‘I’ve been looking for that everywhere’.



So there was a good feeling of wellbeing having accomplished a job that was overlooked in favour of other activities in the past. Some of the menfolk and some of the ladies took to their garages and sheds to set about sorting them out, probably a much longer task than a kitchen cupboard or a wardrobe. I haven’t heard of anyone venturing into the loft, I certainly haven’t and I should. Maybe that is a task too far or the sun came out. The good weather encouraged many of us out into our gardens to tidy, plant, mow lawns and admire our handiwork. Most of my neighbours now have pristine front gardens so we thought we had better do ours too, not wanting to let the neighbourhood down. Many jobs that have been waiting for a long time

have been undertaken and doubtless new ones as well. It was amazing to see how many skips stood on drives or front gardens followed by all manner of DIY deliveries stacked high. When B&Q reopened we ventured over after shopping at Waitrose one morning - we took one look at the queue, turned round and went home. The painting would have to wait. (It has been done now.) I don't know about anyone else but over the weeks we have developed our strategy for dealing with queues, we go early in the morning choosing the days for the over 60's. Age does have its benefits - sometimes.

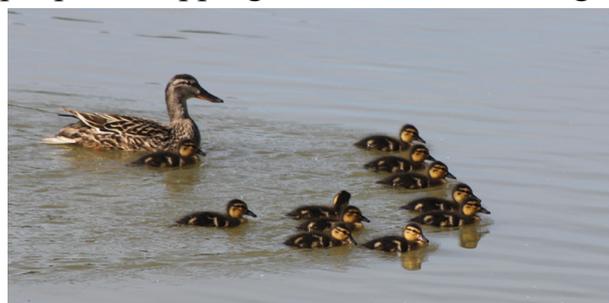
One of the other noticeable differences is the number of delivery firm vans out and about bringing us all our online shopping. Watch out, High Street, we may never be back. That is of course if we were ever devotees of High Street shopping before this pandemic took hold.



During this time we will all have relied on our favourite pastimes such as watching TV, reading, jigsaw puzzles, crosswords and other puzzles, knitting, sewing, crafting, perhaps learning something new. I noticed in the early days that there were a lot of shiny clean cars about. Cleaning the car inside and out, polishing as well seemed to be the first item on the lockdown list of to do's, mainly for the menfolk. It seems to have dwindled now. Technology has been a life saver for family and friends to keep in contact with one another.



Being able to see each other via FaceTime, Zoom and others has been great for a lot of people. Shopping on line has been huge with people buying almost anything and everything on line. Nature has given many of us great pleasure as we have had the time to sit and watch the wildlife in our gardens or **Cherry Orchard Nature Park** enjoying engaging with it on our walks as we get our regular exercise.



**Hockley Woods** or accessed from our church website. Sharing what we have been up to through our PCC secretary's email news. Thank you Veronica, it is very much appreciated, they are a sort

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of mini blog aren't they? It is amazing the wide variety of things we have all been doing and the photos we have been sharing with each other. Again technology has played its part in our hobbies.

Although the church has not been open the churchyard is quite busy. There has been time to tend family graves and our church crew have started back and are getting to grips with the long grass and tidying the flower beds. Thank you to those of you who never stopped gardening. Of course the good weather has meant that there has been a lot of watering to be done. Thank you to everyone who has helped to keep the churchyard a place of tranquillity and beauty where people can come and enjoy the peacefulness particularly during these very uncertain times.



We are also looking forward to Kingsley and his family moving into our vicarage in the very near future. A small group of volunteers has been redecorating for him and this work will soon be complete. Thank you to Martin and his team for all their hard work. I am sure Kingsley will be walking around the parish once he has settled in so do make sure you stop and chat with him, get to know him.

As I write this there is good news that the pandemic is slowly reducing, rewarding all our efforts and the lockdown “rules” are slowly being relaxed. We must stay vigilant and keep our guard up against the virus we are told it will not go away completely any time soon. Nevertheless as a Church we are pleased that we are able to open now for people to come for private prayer, services or just for the comfort that our ancient church brings to so many people. Information about our opening times can be found towards the back of the magazine.

Judith, Churchwarden.

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## We are Open for Services

We are now going to be recommencing our weekly services as follows from:

Thursday	9th July	9.15am	Midweek Holy Communion
Sunday	12th July	9am	Holy Communion(BCP)
		10.30am	Holy Communion. A booking system will be in place for this service.

We are following Church of England guidelines for opening the church and maintaining safety and social distancing measures. Sadly this means we have to restrict the numbers attending services to between 24 - 35 as we can only seat 2 individuals or 1 household per pew. Self-distancing measures of 1 metre are in place, face covering are required.

### How to book for the 10.30 service

Please email(for preference) or ring Judith Wiseman. Tell me which Sunday you would like to attend church. I will book your place and email a confirmation or confirm your booking over the phone when you ring. You will need to tell me if you are booking for yourself or a household for which you will need to tell me how many people you are booking for.

We are required to maintain a register of attendance for Track & Trace purposes. So you need to provide me with: Name, Address, Telephone No. for each family or individual attending. This data must be kept for 21 days and then it will be deleted. If you regularly church you can opt for me to keep your information on my computer until we no longer need to maintain these records at which point all records will be shredded electronically.

My contact details are: Email: [judithwiseman@icloud.com](mailto:judithwiseman@icloud.com) Tel: 01702523941

When service numbers are fully booked you will be automatically placed for the following Sunday unless you tell me otherwise.

There is no need to book for Mid Week communion or Sunday 9am HC.

We look forward to being together once more. Stay safe. Judith

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# St Laurence Players Golden Years

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This year is the fiftieth anniversary of The Players. Sadly due to coronavirus we were not able to celebrate with them at their Summer Show, which should have been staged last month. So here is a look back over the years to whet your appetite for what is to come in the future.

The Players first took to the stage towards the end of 1969. The vicar at the time was the Revd Herbert Woolcott who ran a Saturday Drama Group for young people. This was such a success that he decided to start an adult group, which has grown in strength over the years, a great testimony to their founder. Whilst The Players have changed in personnel there are still a couple of founder members left, more about them at the end. Back in 1970 The Players put on their first play “The Last Birthday Party”, (see the top black and white photo in the 1970 - 1992 photo panel). This was written by Revd Woolcott, styled in the classic thriller tradition with its drawing room setting, investigating C.I.D man and death dealing doctor. A real ‘who dun it’. The cast at the time were all members of St Laurence Church but alas, today, only two founder members of the group are members of the church and one newer member of the church has joined them.

## Message from the President, founder member, Colin Banks.

After 50 glorious years the founder members of The St Laurence Players are upstaged by newcomers. Miss Beryl Brown, a thespian with grease paint running through her veins forced to act out a Sunflower, although enjoying a halftime doughnut, and myself taking on the role of a seven year old ‘Hans’. All upstaged by one man and his dog (alias the new church member, not the dog!)



The Evening Echo in its 1970 review said, “The general impression was of an embryo group who should have it in them to produce good productions once the inevitable kinks are ironed out”. How right they were and how fortunate we are to have them as our local drama group,

who are still very innovative, writing their own plays, creating the scenery and putting on three performances each year, starting with the Panto in January, on to the Summer Show in May and their Open Night in August. Sadly, this year we will only have had the panto..... unless The Players think otherwise.

Here is a gallery of photos to remind us of the good times we have enjoyed with the players as we look forward to the good times to come.



The first performance 1970 - The Last Birthday Party



1994 - The Girls



The panto to remember, perhaps Colin would rather forget, was 'The King's New Clothes'. Everybody at church was intrigued as to how Colin was going to pull off the risky scene of no clothes. After all this was in the church hall. Here are a few reminders from 2015 (sorry Colin) and who can forget Roland's 'Dames'?



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## The Road to York



Bishop Stephen Cottrell left his office as Bishop of Chelmsford last Easter. He has gone to York Minster to become the 98th Archbishop of York and the Church of England's second most senior clergyman and he was born in Southend on Sea. He is very clear about his background and where he is going, "I am a boy from a very ordinary family and a state school in Essex now called to be the Archbishop of York"(The Telegraph, 17/12/2019). The state school was Belfairs High School. Bishop Stephen's road to York is not the typical 'Road to Damascus' that one might expect of a senior member of the Church of England. In the Telegraph interview he said, "there wasn't much church in my growing up," and went on to talk about one of his first introductions to the Christian story. This was Franco Zeffirelli's film Jesus of Nazareth, which was serialised on Sunday evenings. He spoke of how he sat and watched it and wept. His mum told him to "pull yourself together".

Little did either of them know at the time where this film would eventually lead him.

The young man, Stephen Cottrell went on to study art at the Polytechnic of Central London. He then went to work in the film industry as a second assistant director or as he said " he was basically a glorified tea boy". He was ordained deacon in 1984 and priest in 1985 after training for ordination at St Stephen's House in Oxford. An ordinand of the Diocese of Chelmsford, he served his curacy at Christ Church and St Paul's in Forest Gate. He went on to become Priest-in-Charge of St Wilfred's Parish on the outskirts of Chichester and later became Assistant of Pastoral Studies at Chichester Theological College. In 1993 he became Diocesan Missioner for the Diocese of Wakefield. In 1997 he began working for Springboard, the Archbishops of Canterbury's and York's initiative for evangelism and communion, during which time he was based in Huddersfield. So he will at least know what sort of weather to expect as well as knowing the area and the people.

In 2001 he became Canon Pastor and Vice-Dean of Peterborough Cathedral. He moved to Reading when he was appointed Area Bishop of Reading. He arrived back in Essex in 2010 to take up his appointment of Bishop of Chelmsford, one of the largest dioceses in the country. Since his ordination in 1984 Bishop Stephen has widely written on evangelism, spirituality and discipleship. His passions for ministry have always involved evangelism and teaching and commending the Christian faith.

He is married to Rebecca and they have three sons. His interests include writing, reading, cooking and music. He is a keen Spurs supporter but also supports the local team wherever he lives.

Bishop Stephen will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York on Thursday 9th July at 11am in a service broadcast entirely via video links due to the Coronavirus restrictions. Permission for this very unusual service was



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granted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The service will be available on the Church of England website. Arrangements for his enthronement service will be announced later in the year. As Bishop Stephen prepares to take on his new role as Archbishop of York we wish him every success and hold him in our prayers. Our local lad will become number two in the Church of England.



## York Minster

The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of Saint Peter in York, commonly known as York Minster, is one of the largest of its kind in Northern Europe. The Minster is the seat of the Archbishop of York and is the mother church for the Diocese of York and the Province of York. It is run by a dean and chapter, under the Dean of York. The title “minster” is attributed to churches established in the Anglo-Saxon period as missionary teaching churches, and serves now as an honorific title.

The Minster was completed in 1472 after several centuries of building. It is devoted to Saint Peter, and has a very wide Decorated Gothic nave and chapter house, a Perpendicular Gothic quire and east end and Early English North and South transepts. The nave contains the West Window, constructed in 1338, and over the Lady Chapel in the east end is the Great East Window (finished in 1408), the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the world. In the north transept is the Five Sisters Window, each lancet being over 53 feet (16.3 m) high. The south transept contains a rose window, while the West Window contains a heart-shaped design colloquially known as The Heart of Yorkshire.

(Extract: Wikipedia)

**The twelve year old who wept whilst watching ‘The Road to Nazareth’ has now travelled on the Road to York.**

## Parish Information

### Vicar

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### Churchwardens

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### Contact

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### Church Website:

www.st-laurence.org.uk

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Holley Barwell

Email: info@hall.st-laurence.org.uk

### Livingway Editor

Judith Wiseman 523941

### Hall Website:

www.hall.st-laurence.org.uk

**Find us on Facebook@stlaurenceeastwood**

## Services via Facebook

During the period of time that the church cannot be open Revd Kingsley Yeboah and Revd Mark James are conducting services from their homes and posting them on our Facebook and other social media sites as follows:

**Kingsley** is leading Tuesday Reflection and Thursday Holy Communion, 9.15am and Sunday 10.30am services of Holy Communion from his study at home on Facebook.

**Mark** is leading Monday and Wednesday Morning Prayer, 9.15am.

**Sarah** is taking an Evening Prayer or Compline on Friday.

Everything Mark posts on the Facebook page is also available on YouTube. Just type 'YouTube Revmarkjames' into Google Search or similar.

Our Facebook page can be accessed easily from our website Home Page, just scroll down to access the link.

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## Weekly Services

### Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Holy Communion

6pm Evening Prayer (First Sunday only) Recommences from 2nd August

**Services will restart on Sunday, 12th July at 9am and 10.30am**

**A booking system will be in place for the 10.30am service as only 24 people can attend each service.**

**Details can be found on page 5. Please note that Face coverings are required for all services.**

**The 10.30a.m. service will be videoed for live streaming on Facebook.**

## Prayer Diary

Please join us as we pray for our community. If you would like to add any groups or organisations to the Prayer Diary please contact:

Veronica Newman 01702 545790 .

The roads included are:

**July:** Western Approaches, Whitehouse Meadows, Sunnybank Close, Blatches Chase.

**August:** Mayflower Close, Snakes Lane, Aldrin Way, Borman Close, Burfield Road.



## Weekly Activities

**All activities are suspended due to Coronavirus restrictions**

### Monday

1.00pm Honey Bees - now every Monday in the Hall, 342822 Term time

6.30 - 10pm Timberlog Dog Training in the Hall

### Tuesday

9.30am Gardening/DIY Crew, Churchyard, Glen 522032

2.15pm Craft Group, Hall

8.00pm St Laurence Players, Hall, 545680

### Thursday

10-11.30am Coffee Morning - Small Church Hall  
All are welcome for a chat, tea or coffee and biscuits.

7.30pm Bell Ringers, Church, 551906

### Friday

5 - 6pm Beavers - Hall - 07810505280

6 - 7.30pm Cubs - Hall - 07810505280

7.30 - 9pm Scouts - Hall - 01268 785388