

**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY PARISH CHURCH
& ST MARY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH, FILLONGLEY
WITH FILLONGLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.



Dear Friends,

'It's coming home, it's coming home, football's coming home!'. The popular refrain that rang out across England after the historic victory of England against Germany on Tuesday evening. The delight of the England fans gathered at Wembley, at open-air 'fanzones', in pubs and homes across the country was contagious. A momentous win at a tournament that had to be delayed for a year because of the Coronavirus. It is so lovely to have such a good news story after the last difficult 18 months. I am sure we all hope that the team continue to play well and progress through the final (and prayerful fingers crossed – win!).

I am not the greatest sports fan, but there is so much wonderful sport to watch at the moment. As well as the football there is Wimbledon to enjoy, closely followed by the Olympic Games. Wonderful examples of athletes at the peak of their performance doing the thing that God created them to do.

When I see the joy and exhaustion on the faces of athletes after a good game, race or competition, I am reminded of the words of Olympian Eric Liddell ' *I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast! And when I run, I feel his pleasure.*'

Eric Liddell was a Scottish rugby player, athlete and Christian missionary. Eric won a gold medal in the 400m at the 1924 Olympic Games. His story was the inspiration for the 1981 film 'Chariots of Fire'. He became famous for refusing to run in the heats of the 100m because it was being held on a Sunday. Fortunately, he was able to compete in the 400m and the rest, as they say, is history. Eric's story didn't stop there however, he later returned to China, where he had been born, to continue with the missionary work his parents had started and inspired him to continue. His devotion to God, to his sport and his way with words have left us with a treasury of inspirational quotes that draws parallels between his Christian faith and his sporting achievements. (Some of which are included below).

Unfortunately, the Euros have not been without controversy. Mostly about the arrangements for visiting VIPs and how they may or not be subject to Covid regulations. We would all hope that the football authorities have done appropriate risk assessments, but the work that goes on behind the scenes is not usually made public and that is when misunderstandings can happen. It is the same with us here in our churches. We have risk assessments for our buildings that we revisit every time there is a change in advice. At the moment we are still maintaining social distancing measures and asking everyone to wear face coverings. But, with the lifting of restrictions on numbers for occasional offices (weddings, funerals and Baptism), the guidance allows for the maximum number to be defined by the space available in the building. We have made the

Stop press
Services for
Sunday 4th July 2021
9:00am Corley
10:30am Fillongley
Please bring and wear a
face covering



decision to offer 'bespoke' seating plans for these types of services. Liaising with families to allow 2 households or 6 people to sit together (in a specific place on a seating plan), as we are able to do in public places and in our homes. That means that we no longer have a 30 person limit at Fillongley or a 16 person limit in Corley. I thought it might be helpful to share this information as we have a wedding and a baptism coming up before 19th July, when (hopefully!) remaining restrictions will be lifted. This means that, on these occasions, there will be larger gatherings in our church. Social distancing will be maintained and all other precautions will be in place to ensure that we can help people celebrate major life events with as many people as we can safely accommodate.

Some of you will have met our Ordinand on Placement, Stacy, over the last few weeks. Stacy is training to be a priest at Queen's Theological College in Birmingham and has been assisting in services over the last couple of weeks. As part of Stacy's training, she will be leading and preaching at our 'Service of the Word' on Sunday 4th July at 10.30am at Fillongley. We also have another 'visiting' preacher at Corley this Sunday. Archdeacon Barry Dugmore has sent us a message to share in our churches, I have already had the privilege of watching his message and am looking forward to sharing it with you at 9am service at Corley.

Sunday is also when we are holding our 'Songs of Praise and Thankfulness' at 5pm in Fillongley Churchyard. I am really looking forward to us being able to sing Corley and Fillongley's favourite hymns together. If you are coming along, please bring a garden chair and maybe an umbrella too, just in case! There will be refreshments after the service to soothe throats that haven't been used to singing for such a long time!

However you spend your weekend, whether it is glued to the telly watching the sport or joining in worshipping at church, I hope and pray that you have a joyful time and respite from the difficult time we have all been having recently.

If however, a cup of coffee and a chat would be helpful, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We can't influence the sports results, but we can offer a listening ear and prayer.

With love and prayers Ali

Other wonderful quotes from Eric Liddell*

'And where does the power come from, to see the race to its end? From within.'

'If you commit yourself to the love of Christ, then that is how you run a straight race.'

'I have no formula for winning the race. Everyone runs in her own way, or his own way.'

'The secret of my success over the 400m is that I run the first 200m as fast as I can. Then, for the second 200m, with God's help I run faster.'

'Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives, but God is not helpless among the ruins.'

'We are all missionaries. Wherever we go we either bring people nearer to Christ or we repel them from Christ'

'A disciple is one who knows God personally, and who learns from Jesus Christ, who most perfectly revealed God.'

* https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/802465.Eric_Liddell



STOP PRESS

THERE WILL BE NO ZOOM SERVICE AT 5PM THIS SUNDAY BUT SONGS OF PRAISE IN FILLONGLEY CHURCHYARD INSTEAD.

Readings and Prayers for Sunday 4th July 2021 ~ Trinity 5

Collects

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Readings

2 Samuel 5: vs 1-5, 9-10

Psalms 48

2 Corinthians 12 vs 2-10

Mark 6: vs 1-13



Reflection

There are two reflections attached this week ~ the first from Stacy Nelson Taylor, our Ordinand on placement and the second from Archdeacon Barry Dugmore, which Revd Ali will preach at Corley Church on Sunday.

HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

Here are the Hymns that we would have been singing in Church this Sunday:-

We seek your Kingdom (sung to the tune Eventide, usually used for the hymn, *Abide with me*)

This worship song was written during this year's Thy Kingdom Come campaign and can be enjoyed here at this link.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=we+seek+your+kingdom+youtube&view=detail&mid=947B8E85DA68BE8EFA4E947B8E85DA68BE8EFA4E&FORM=VIRE>

Community of Christ (StF 681) Tune: Leoni

May this place be one of nurture Tune: Corvedale (StF 416 ii)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? (673)

PRAYERS

We continue to pray for all those affected by the global pandemic in any way.

Dear Lord, help us to patiently wait on you. We might not always know why or what we are waiting for but trust that you are God, and your ways will be revealed at just the right time. Help us remain patient in your presence Lord.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, we know that climate shocks, conflict, and the economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic is increasing the fragility of life for the world's poorest people. We particularly pray for the tens of millions of people, mainly in Africa, who the World Food Programme warns are on the brink of famine. Let us not wait to help.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, we pray patience for our leaders; those who are making decisions that require time and wisdom. Please give them both in abundance Lord.

Amen

Gracious God, you have planned in Christ to restore all things: our relationship with you, our love for one another, our care for your world and our concern for every living creature under heaven. Help us to embrace this high calling as your people and to be committed to planet-care and people-justice as much as personal salvation. For your name's sake.

Amen



A Sonnet for St. Thomas the Apostle

Feast day July 3rd

“We do not know... how can we know the way?”
Courageous master of the awkward question,
You spoke the words the others dared not say
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.
Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,
You put your finger on the nub of things
We cannot love some disembodied wraith,
But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.
Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,
Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.
Because He loved your awkward counter-point
The Word has heard and granted you your wish.
Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine
The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.

Malcolm Guite.

Poet's Corner CHURCH TIMES 25 JUNE 2021

As restrictions on going abroad tighten, *Malcolm Guite* plans to travel vicariously



THE present impasse in international travel has given a whole new meaning to being “held up by the traffic lights”. It is not the minor inconvenience of slowing down and stopping, as amber turns to red on the road, but the much more inconvenient changes of the metaphorical traffic lights of government advice, with hardly a country on green, and now even the amber of Portugal, with its distantly beckoning bottles of port, turning, like its raging elixir, to red. It looks as if any travelling abroad we do this summer will have to be vicarious. But I am more than happy to put the “vicar” back into “vicarious”; for there’s a great deal to be said for vicarious travel. It’s easier on the wallet, and with far fewer discomforts and inconveniences, since it can all be accomplished from the armchair. You can go to *The Wild Places* with Robert Macfarlane, or even climb his *Mountains of the Mind*, without so much as slipping off your slippers or spilling a drop of cocoa. Vicarious travel through literature has, of course, a long pedigree. Not everyone could do the Grand Tour, but everybody could read about it. *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage*, the narrative poem which catapulted Lord Byron to fame — and, indeed, notoriety — was little more than a rhyming travelogue with romantic episodes thrown in; *Don Juan*, even more so. In fact, *Don Juan* might be best summed up as *Incredible Journeys* meets *Love Island!* So, whatever one’s tastes, there is some wonderful work to take us abroad in imagination, where no traffic lights of any colour will impede our journey. But, when one is tired of words and seeks something with a different and refreshing savour, there is the best vicarious travelling of all: travel through wine. Here, one does not simply read about the Loire, but one has the very fruit and benison of its fertile vineyards, the very taste of the place, as the *terroir* comes to you when you are kept from going out to it.

When I was writing my *Quarantine Quatrains* in the most confined phase of the first lockdown, I included some verses to celebrate that very freedom to roam which the dusty bottles in my cellar conferred on me. So, as the lights change once more from amber to red, I’ll enjoy these verses, and the wines they celebrate, in earnest of the day when travel can, once more, be more than vicarious:

*I'll keep the rules my country has imposed,
My life, like my small garden, is enclosed,
But still I'll raise a glass and pledge my friends,
Although, for us, the tavern door is closed.*

*For in my cellar, ranged in dusty rows,
Are sleeping poets waiting to disclose
Their memories of St. Emillion,
Whose vineyards reach to where the Dordogne flows.*

*And with these wines I travel where I please
From Rhineland to the lofty Pyrenees,
I saunter though the chateaux of the Loire,
Drawing the cork on any one of these.*

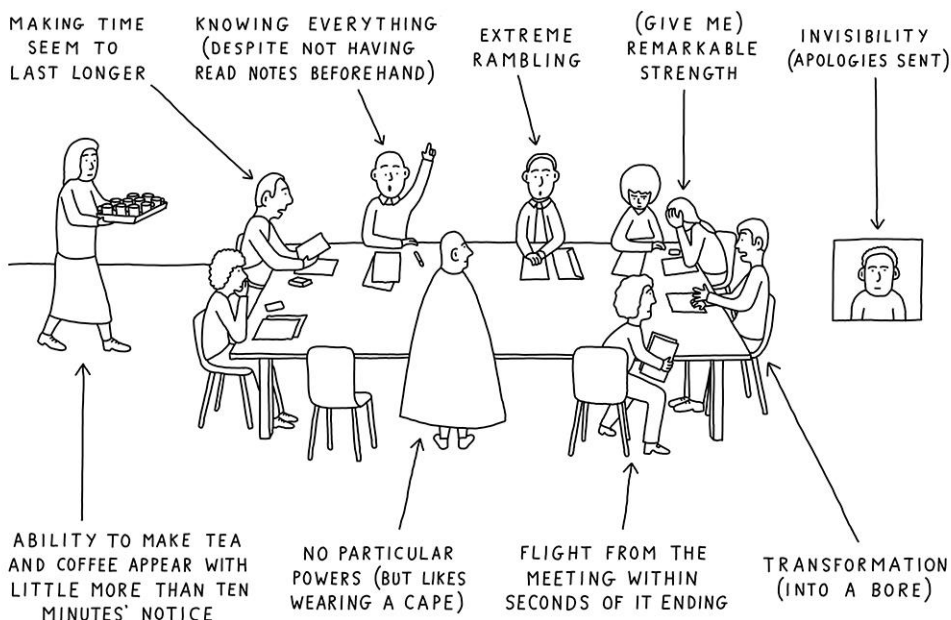
*So with the poets let me praise the vine
And pledge my absent friends in vintage wine,
Sensing, sometimes, the savour at my lips
Speaks of a love both human and divine.*

*And when I come to taste my life's last drop,
When all that flowed in me comes to a stop,
Then let me see my saviour pledge his love,
Come close to me, and help me drink the cup.*

Malcolm Guite is a poet, priest and singer-songwriter. He is a Chaplain of Girton College and Associate Chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr in Cambridge, and is the author of many anthologies of poetry. He is a weekly columnist in the Church Times where he writes the very popular 'Poet's Corner' which is now included here each week for you to enjoy.

SUPERHUMAN POWERS

OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL



This week's cartoon from Dave Walker, Church Times cartoonist.

Do you recognise anyone?

RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

- ✚ A Reflection for Sunday from Archdeacon Barry Dugmore
- ✚ A Reflection for Sunday from Stacy Nelson Taylor, Ordinand.
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion at Corley Church
- ✚ Order of Service for Service of the Word at Fillongley Church
- ✚ Order of Service for our Benefice Songs of Praise & Thankfulness
- ✚ Advert for “Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat” – join the production!

AND FINALLY DON'T FORGET

If there is anything that you need or know of someone who would appreciate being contacted or added to the mailing list for this weekly e-bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact Revd Ali, Revd Jane or any of the Churchwardens and Church Stewards listed below. ⁱ

ⁱ *Contact Details:*

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