

The BROADSIDER

May 2020



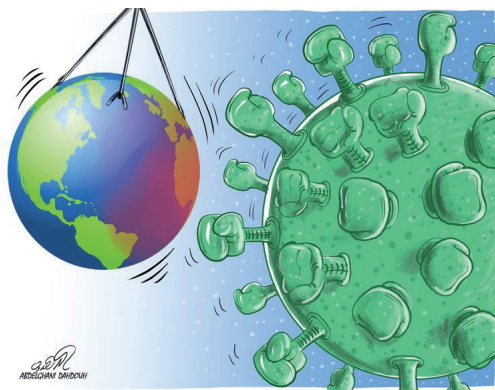
Covering the Broadside Benefice parishes of
Ranworth with Panxworth, South Walsham, Upton & Fishley, and Woodbastwick

Dear Friends,

During the past few weeks our lives have been altered beyond belief by the restrictions placed on us by self-isolating during the Coronavirus pandemic. As I write, those restrictions are still in place. We have all been given the responsibility of making only necessary journeys from our homes and this means that our team of distributors are unable to make the usual delivery of Broadsider to each home in our area. Immediately restrictions on the locking of our churches have been lifted we will post information in a further newsletter update on this website. This will include details of services providing we are able to hold them. Even if we can open the churches it is likely that there will be a requirement to distance ourselves from others in church and this may prevent the opening of Ranworth church tower for some time to come.

Following this pandemic our lives will no doubt be changed in many ways. It is unlikely that we will just go back to the past and resume where we left off. Sadly, in many families there will have been a tragic loss. For those directly involved in caring for the sick there will be traumatic memories. For many on frontline duties there will be scars from fears and worry. For those who live alone there will have been even more loneliness to endure. Yet for all of us there will be a realisation that our world is a better place when the small silver linings shine through. Love, understanding, care, tenderness . . . to name but a few. In these times we endeavour to lift our spirits, come together, consider others and realise that our lives and the world around us needs to be in balance. It is said that God works in mysterious ways and perhaps He does. Now is the opportunity to take stock and look at who we are, how we have lived in the past and to take a long and caring look around us. Hopefully the real silver lining is that this pandemic has given us a realisation and an opportunity to face up to where we were and where we should be.

continued on page 2.




ABDELGHANI DAHDOUN

Cartoon by Abdelghani Dahdoun

THE BROADSIDE BENEFICE CONTACT LIST

Rector
Position Vacant

Benefice Administrative Assistant
Janet Duncan

(usually available on Monday and Thursday mornings)

Email: officebroadside@gmail.com
Telephone 07887 544 408

**Letters and mail should continue to be
addressed to**

The Broadside Benefice
The Rectory, The Street,
South Walsham, Norfolk NR13 6DQ

Pastoral Care of Parishioners

If anyone requires visiting or wishes to make arrangements for a baptism, marriage or funeral, please inform one of your churchwardens listed below.

CHURCHWARDENS

RANWORTH with PANXWORTH

David Benham
01603 721546

John Ley
01603 270158

WOODBASTWICK

Kit Cator
01603 720276

SOUTH WALSHAM

Sue Hitchcock
01603 270212

UPTON

Lee Smith
01493 750764

Joyce Warren
01493 752237

FISHLEY

Ivan Barnard
01493 751265

For those of you who live further afield, you may not know that the churches in our benefice currently have no priest; we are in vacancy. Your prayers for our communities would be very welcome. We do have a retired priest who lives in the neighbourhood and during this vacancy, prior to the introduction of the quarantine period, he has helped us by taking Holy Communion services. He emailed me the other day with the words of a rather topical poem written by Malcolm Guite, who is a poet-priest and Chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge. He is certainly an interesting guy and worth looking up on the internet. The poem is called "Easter 2020" and it is printed on the next page. I hope you get the same inspiration from it that it gave to me.

**Keep safe, keep well
and best wishes**



Easter 2020

And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches,
anymore than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
and he is up and risen, long before,
alive, at large, and making his strong way
into the world he gave his life to save,
no need to seek him in his empty grave.

He might have been a wafer in the hands
of priests this day, or music from the lips
of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
away from church, shakes off our linen bands
to don his apron with a nurse: he grips
and lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
the frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
breathes with the breathless, lends them strength to cope.

On Thursday we applauded, for he came
and served us in a thousand names and faces
mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
of that virus which was death to him:

Good Friday happened in a thousand places
where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
that they might share his Easter in their need,
now they are risen with him, risen indeed.

by Malcolm Guite